

DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 197 818

PS 011 912

TITLE Annual Report of the Australian Pre-School Association, Inc., May 1979 - June 1980.

INSTITUTION Australian Pre-School Association, Canberra.

PUB DATE Aug 80

NOTE 77p.: Paper presented at the Annual General Meeting of the Australian Pre-School Association (Canberra, Australia, August 26-28, 1980).

EDRS PRICE MF01 Plus Postage. PC Not Available from EDRS.

DESCRIPTORS Annual Reports; Chronicles; Committees; Foreign Countries; *National Organizations; *Preschool Education; *Professional Associations

IDENTIFIERS *Australia; *Australian Preschool Association

ABSTRACT

This annual report of the Australian Preschool Association (APA) for the period May 1979 to June 1980 (1) highlights significant events of the Association's 42 years of activity; (2) indicates existing conditions, actions taken and decisions made in a broad range of areas of concern (such as accreditation, conferences, development, proposals, International Year of the Child, OMEP, scholarships); and (3) presents reports from APA National Standing Committees on early childhood services and training, finance, OMEP, publications, research, evaluation and development, and scholarships. Several additional reports and related materials are provided in appendices A through M. (Author/RH)

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ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
AUSTRALIAN PRE-SCHOOL ASSOCIATION INC.

MAY 1979 - JUNE 1980



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Presented to the
Annual General Meeting of the Council

26-28 August 1980

Canberra A.C.T.

PS 011912

AUSTRALIAN PRE-SCHOOL ASSOCIATION INC.

Address : Knox Street, Watson, A.C.T. 2602
Ph.: (062) 416900

Patron:

His Excellency Sir Zelman Cowen, A.K., G.C.M.G., G.C.V.O.,
K.St.J., Q.C.,
Governor General of Australia

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Deputy President:

Miss Florence Kendall

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Publications Assistant:

Mr Russell Bowman

Project Officer (Resource Information
Service):

Mrs Anne Greenwood (to Dec. 1979)
Mrs Narelle Milligan (From March 1980)

Project Officer (Multicultural Project):

Mrs Jackie Hartley

OBITUARY

It is with deep regret that we must report the deaths of three people who made major contributions to the development of Children's Services in this country.

Each of them had close links with the Australian Pre-School Association, and will be remembered with special affection and respect by those who knew and worked with them. Their support for the Association and its program contributed in no small way to the influence it was able to have on the provision of high quality care and education for young children in Australia.

CHRISTINE HEINIG PH.B., M.A., the first Federal Officer of the Australian Pre-School Association died on 24 October 1979, in Alabama, U.S.A. Originally from that country, she came to Australia in 1937 to take up a position as Principal of the Melbourne Kindergarten Teachers College.

The Australian Association for Pre-School Child Development (AAPSCD - later APA) was formed in 1938, and immediately became involved in discussions with the Federal Government about the establishment of model pre-school centres in each State. Those Centres became the Lady Gowrie Child Centres. The Government made funds available to the Association to employ a Federal Officer to develop and coordinate the work of the Centres, and Christine Heinig was appointed in 1939. She remained in that position until 1945, when she returned to the United States.

These few lines cannot adequately describe the contribution she made during that period, but it should be recorded that her work had a major influence on the development of pre-school education in Australia. A more detailed description of her work may be found in the March 1980 edition of the Australian Journal of Early Childhood (Vol. 5 No. 1).

SYLVIA GOODMAN died in December 1979. She gave 40 years of service to the early childhood field through the Victorian Association of Day Nurseries, the National Council of Women, the Victorian Branch of APA, and the National Committee of OMEP (Organisation Mondiale pour l'Education Prescolaire). She was especially concerned that parents should be better informed and educated in order to undertake their duties and responsibilities for their children and that they should be made aware of the value of childhood education. She will be especially remembered for her work in this area.

An obituary appeared in the "EC Newsletter" 1/80 - March 1980.

As this Annual Report was being completed and printed, we were advised of the death in England on 1 August 1980, of a past National President of the Australian Pre-School Association, and an Honorary Life Vice President, LADY BAILEY O.B.E.

Lady Bailey became involved with the pre-school movement in Victoria, because of her sons' attendance at kindergartens. She supported the establishment of the Lady Gowrie Child Centres, and worked for the provision of pre-schools in Canberra, after she and her family moved to the national capital in 1942. She maintained her contact with APA during this period, and was elected National President in 1947, a position she held until 1963. She attended the first World Council Meeting of OMEP in Prague in 1948 and was elected World Vice President for the Pacific Region. She was appointed an Honorary Life Vice President by the Association in recognition of her work on its behalf, and was awarded an OBE for her service to the community in the field of early childhood education.

A detailed description of Lady Bailey's work was published in "The Canberra Times" on 11 August 1980.

HONOURS

A number of people in the community who may be identified with the early childhood field, received honours during 1979/80 in recognition of their work for the community.

The Minister for Social Security, Senator Margaret Guilfoyle, was made a Dame Commander of the Order of the British Empire for public and parliamentary service.

Miss Joan Fry was awarded an OBE for service to early childhood education. Miss Fry has had a long association with APA, and is the patron of the ACT Branch. She chaired the Australian Pre-Schools Committee which produced the Report - "Care and Education of Young Children" (The Fry Report) in 1973.

Mrs Barbara McNulty was also awarded an OBE, for service to education. Mrs McNulty has been the President of the Kindergarten Union of NSW since 1974 and a National Vice President of APA since 1977. She was also the Chairman of the Organising Committee of the 15th National APA Conference in Sydney in May 1979.

Prof. Marie Neale was awarded an OBE for services to education for exceptional children. Prof. Neale is the Monash Child Guidance Centre's representative to the Victorian APA Branch.

Miss Win Griffith was awarded an MBE for services to early childhood education. She was a foundation member of the Victorian Branch, its Honorary Treasurer for several years, and continues to actively support its program.

APA BRANCH CHAIRMEN AND SECRETARIES/NATIONAL COMMITTEES 1979/80

BRANCH CHAIRMEN AND SECRETARIES

Chairmen

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N.S.W. Lady (Vincent) Fairfax O.B.E.
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TAS. Mrs Bon Vaughan
VIC. Mrs Lee Tregloan
W.A. Mrs Joan Biddle

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Miss Hazel Flint
Miss Lyla Wills
Miss Pat Roberts
Mrs Margaret Trembath
Mrs Lynne Chesterman
Mrs Agnes Farrance
Mrs Marjorie Green

NATIONAL COMMITTEES

Note: APA National Staff are not listed in Committees (unless as Conveners) but have varying responsibilities with all of them.

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Brisbane - Miss Jean Ferguson
Hobart - Miss Gemma O'Callahan
Melbourne - Miss Jean Adamson
Perth - Miss B. Grant
Sydney - Miss R. Harrison

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O.M.E.P.

Committee

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Mrs P. Johnson
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Dr Isla Stamp
Mrs Patsy Walford

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QLD. Miss P. Banff
S.A. Miss S. Lillywhite
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Mrs Jan Pryor
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Mrs Kaye Campbell
Mrs Helen Evans
Mrs Jean Gifford
Ms Linda Hort
Mrs Simone Howells
Mrs Diane Johnson
Miss Joan Langham
Mrs Anne Murray
Mrs Caroline Nuttall
Dr Sandi Plummer
Mrs Margaret Ruhfus
Dr Ellen Tulip

Parents News Sheet/Today's Child
Sub-Committee

Ms Jacquie Hackett (Convener)
Mrs Rosemary Brown
Mrs Kaye Campbell
Mrs Mary Cumming-Thom
Mrs Dawn Crockford
Mrs Marie Darke
Ms Jackie Hartley
Mrs Laurel Salt

APA Publications Review
Sub-Committee (Queensland)

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Mrs M. Clegg
Mrs M. Keenan
Miss U. Modder
Mrs P. Patterson

DEVELOPMENTAL NEEDS OF CHILDREN COMMITTEE

To be formed in Queensland

RESEARCH, EVALUATION AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

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Miss Jean Adamson
Mrs Agnes Farrance
Mrs Lorraine Riach
Dr Howard Williams
Miss Romola Wollaston

Finance, Legal, Administration,
Policy and Publicity Sub-Committee

Mr Alan Holmes (Convener)

Overseas Material Assessment/Sales
Sub-Committee

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Miss Joan Fry

Resource Booklets Sub-Committee

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Mrs Sue Judge
Mrs Simone Howells
Ms Sue Rasic
Ms Marg Kevin
Ms Meena Koerner

Assessment Sub-Committee
(South Australia)

Mrs M. Trembath (Convener)
Mrs V. Elliott
Mrs M. Farmer
Mrs B. Keller
Dr R. Leeson
Mrs R. Roberts
Mrs M. Webb

EARLY CHILDHOOD SERVICES AND TRAINING COMMITTEE (South Australia)

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Mrs Freida Briggs
Miss Bette Davis
Mrs Barbara Denman
Mrs Jane Fowler
Dr Olive Johnston
Miss Beth Mellor
Dr Marie O'Neill
Dr Joanne Weaver

SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE (A.C.T.)

Mrs Maria Byron (Convener)
Miss Joan Fry
Mrs Dianne Wright

(Also Nominating Committee for Australian/American Education
Foundation Award)

APA Representative to International Year of the Child National
Committee of Non-Government Organisations - Lady Thomson O.B.E.

LADY GOWRIE CHILD CENTRES

Committee Membership and Staff - at 30 June 1980

ADELAIDE

Committee:

- | | |
|----------------------|---|
| Chairman | - Dr D.G. McKay |
| Deputy Chairman | - Miss Betty Davis A.M. |
| Hon. Treasurer | - Mr L. Camens |
| Members | - Miss D. Chapman, Councillor T. Foley, Mrs E. Johnson, Mrs B. Stephens, Miss P. Cosh, Mrs M. Trembath, Mrs R. Hawke, Mr Rod Squires, Mrs R. Smith, Mr I. Green, Miss C.M. Sando, Mrs P. Wark, Miss E.T. Mellor, Mrs B. Thomas, Dr D. Bowler, Mr H. Vail (observer) |
| House Committee | - Mrs P. Wark, Mrs K. Bartlett, Mrs K. Webb, Mrs B. Mackie |
| Hon. Dental Officer | - Dr E. Fanning |
| Hon. Medical Officer | - Dr S. Beal |

Staff:

- | | |
|--------------------|--|
| Director | - Miss E.T. Mellor |
| Professional Staff | - Mrs M.A. Psarros, Mrs K. Chase, Mrs R. Smith, Mrs M. Robertson, Miss A. Brookman |
| Aide | - Mrs L. Dodd |
| Secretary | - Mrs P. Wark |
| Cook | - Mrs H. Chiricuta |
| Cleaner | - Mrs E. Nardi |
| Gardener | - Mr L. Munro |

BRISBANE

Committee:

- | | |
|----------------------|---|
| Chairman | - Dr P. Jackson |
| Vice President | - Mr K. Hayes |
| Hon. Secretary | - Mrs G. Spender |
| Hon. Treasurer | - Mr R. Ware |
| Hon. Life Members | - Mrs E. Austin, Dr J. Bostock |
| Members | - Miss E. McLoughlin, Mrs A. Hay, Lady Thomson O.B.E., Mrs M. Sutherland, Dr J. Vance, Miss P. Banff, Mr K. Carpenter, Mr T. Emerson, Miss J. Ferguson, Mr J. Tainton, Mr N. Alford, Mr E. Eriksson, Mrs I. Davies, Mrs G. Spender, Mrs Y. Rohl, Dr J. Bostock, Mrs M. Mohay, Mrs Austin, Mr K. Hayes, Dr V. Watson |
| Hon. Medical Officer | - Dr V. Watson |

Staff:

- | | |
|------------------------|--|
| Director | - Miss P. Roberts |
| Deputy Director | - Mrs P. Patterson |
| Teachers | - Mrs E. Cassidy, Miss J. Musumeci, Miss M. McCarthy |
| Aides | - Mrs S. McKenzie, Mrs E. Rowe, Miss J. Willes |
| Under Threes Teacher | - Mrs J. Medhurst |
| Nursing Sister | - Mrs K.S. Kendall |
| Family Day Care | - Mrs R. Kelly, Mrs L. Easton, Mrs W. Whittaker, Mrs B. Waltisbuhl, Mrs B. Evans |
| Administrative Officer | - Mrs J. Shield |
| Office Staff | - Mrs M. Mohr, Mrs E. Graham |
| Domestic Staff | - Mrs W. Armstrong, Mrs M. Marzec, Mr P. Meakin |

HOBART

Committee:

Chairman

- Mrs W.D. Joske (to Dec. 79)
- Dr S. Sindhu (from Feb. 80)

Hon. Treasurer

- Mr D. McDougall

Members

- Mrs D. Walch, Mrs G. Firth, Mrs S. Broadstock, Mrs W. Balfour-Ogilvy, Miss G. O'Callahan, Mrs R. Hagger, Mrs R. Hopcroft, Mr M. Walsh, Mr F. Vixon, Ms Bev Moore (Office of Child Care), Dr J. Stewart (Parent Club)

Staff:

Director

- Mrs W. Berry-Porter

Teachers

- Mrs L. Emmett, Mrs S. Barnes, Mrs H. Stephen, Mrs E. Hardy, Miss K. Bartkevicius

Child Care Worker

- Miss T. McGough

Family Councillor

- Mrs A. Hanke

Aides

- Mrs B. Hodgson, Mrs M. Wall

Nursing Sister

- Sister N. Palmer

Secretary

- Mrs E. Brain

Bursar

- Mr D. Murdock

Domestic Staff

- Mrs S. Orr, Miss M. Wade

Gardener

- Mr W. Rushton

Drivers

- Mrs M. Barton-Johnston, Mrs S. Redman

MELBOURNE

Committee:

Chairman

- Miss B. Stubbs

Vice Presidents

- Mrs K. Sanders, Mrs M. Walpole

Hon. Secretary

- Mrs B. Rees

Hon. Treasurer

- Mr G. Burrows

Members

- Mrs A. Alley, Mrs B. Allsion, Dr B. Brodrick, Miss A.M. Bastow, Sr. E. Bromfield, Dr A. Clements, Miss R. Combes, Dr C. Finocchiaro, Mrs L. Holroyd, Mrs D. Johnson, Miss C. Kelly, Miss F. Kendall, Miss H. Moorhead, Dr C. Penfold, Mrs A. Sanderson, Mrs M. Sharkey, Miss G. Williams, Miss J. Adamson (ex officio)

Staff:

Director

- Miss J. Adamson

Senior Teacher & Tutor

- Miss B. Blondel

Coordinator, Child Care

and Parent Programs

- Mrs A. Willis Stonehouse

Teachers

- Mrs J. Bruce, Mrs K. Patterson

Child Care Worker

- Mrs W. Kent

Aide

- Mrs J. Ross

Secretary

- Mrs B. Jarvis

Domestic (housekeeper)

- Mrs R. Petterson

Caretakers

- Mr and Mrs B. Pender

PERTH

Committee:

- | | |
|----------------|---|
| Chairman | - The Hon. Ron Davies, M.L.A. |
| Vice Chairman | - Dr J.B. Mathieson, M.B.E. |
| Hon. Treasurer | - Mr G. Cocker |
| Hon. Secretary | - Mrs G. Schlipalius |
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Miss J. Morton, Mrs J. Biddle, Mrs J.W. Innes,
Dr A.J. Gaite, Mrs R. Lewi, Dr B. Robson,
Mrs J. Hardy, Cr P. Morrish, Mrs G. Schlipalius,
Cr G. Playford, Mr C. Williams |

Staff:

- | | |
|-----------------|--|
| Director | - Mrs J.W. Innes |
| Teachers | - Mrs R.A. Edmondson, Mrs L. MacPherson, Mrs O. Pelss |
| Care-Givers | - Miss S. Howard, Mrs I. McGrath, Mrs C. Park,
Miss F. Aitkin, Miss S. McEwan |
| Nursing Sister | - Mrs J. Parker |
| Play Supervisor | - Mrs L. Pain |
| Play Leader | - Miss G. Agüero |
| Secretary | - Mrs A.V. Mullins |
| Book-keeper | - Mrs J. Armstrong |
| Receptionist | - Miss L. Giglia |
| Domestic Staff | - Mrs N. Bennett, Mr J.F. Sheridan |

Brownlie Towers:

- | | |
|---------|---------------------|
| Teacher | - Mrs J.L. Versteeg |
| Aide | - Mrs G. Roads |

SYDNEY

Committee:

- | | |
|-----------------|--|
| President | - Mrs G. Thorp |
| Vice Presidents | - Mrs P. Halliday, Mrs I.M. Ackery |
| Hon. Treasurer | - Mrs E. Cook |
| Members | - Miss M. Chase, Lady (Vincent) Fairfax O.B.E.,
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Mrs T. Goddard, Miss J. Kelman, Alderman Maureen
Oliver, Miss H. Newton, Miss E. Lanser,
Mrs P. Rossi, Mrs M. Doyle, Mrs S. Watts,
Mrs M. Herman, Mrs W. Gordon, Mrs B. McNulty OBE,
Dr C. West, Ms R. Bandc (OCC representative) |

Staff:

- | | |
|---|---|
| Director | - Mrs B. Cumming |
| Assistant Director | - Mrs P. Schurch |
| Teachers | - Mrs L. Harrison, Miss K. Piddington,
Ms S. Waterford |
| Assistant
Playroom Helpers (part-
time) | - Mrs R. Hancock |
| Secretary | - Mrs P. Gleaves, Mrs P. Hendy, Mrs M. Rios,
Mrs C. Taylor |
| Part-Time Typist | - Mrs J. Brindley |
| Domestic Staff (Part-
time) | - Mrs R. Balcaban |
| Gardener (part-time) | - Mrs M. Stubbs, Mrs H. Keevers |
| Casual Caretaking | - Mr C. Pidding |
| | - Mrs M. Cook |

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SECTION 2

APA NATIONAL COMMITTEE REPORTS

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SECTION 3

- Appendix A - Members/Observers - APA Branches
B - APA National Committee Structure
C - Report - 15th National Conference
D - Summary Development Proposals and Action
E - Federal Government Funding for Children Services 1973-80
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INTRODUCTION - APA at the Crossroads

Although the beginning of a New Year in a new decade is really no different to any other New Year, it has none-the-less, a psychological effect on most people. It provides a "point in time" to which we can relate, and look back and look forward.

The Australian Pre-School Association moves into the 1980's with a proud record of achievement during the 42 years of its existence. Many of its initiatives have been lost in memories, and those people who have only recently become involved with the Association would have little opportunity of learning of its influence in the field of early childhood. Indeed, one of the many projects awaiting resources, is a history of the Development of Children's Services in Australia, and APA's part in that development.

Perhaps a very brief list of some "highlights" will provide some appreciation of its work in encouraging a high standard of care and education for young children in Australia.

Note: APA was originally founded as the "Australian Association for Pre-School Child Development - AAPSCD. The name was changed to "The Australian Pre-School Association" in 1954.

1938-1941

- Establishment/Consolidation national Association.
- Discussions with Department of Health led to construction of Lady Gowrie Child Centres, completed by 1940.
- First Federal Officer appointed 1938 (Christine Heinig).
- First National Conference (Sydney) 1939
- Health programs in all Kindergartens reviewed and recommendations circulated (1941).

1942

- Survey of salaries of kindergarten teachers made.
- "Kindergarten of the Air", ABC program organised by K.U. of West Australia.

1943

- Commission of Post-War Reconstruction approached to include development of pre-school work in its program.
- Establishment of a National Children's Bureau sought, by A.A.P.S.C.D. either under the Department of Post-War Reconstruction or the Commonwealth Department of Health. Resolution sent to Prime Minister.
- Resolution to Prime Minister re urgent need to improve standards of nutrition in Australia by (a) reducing costs, etc. (b) establishment of university courses in Home Science.
- Children's Libraries. Resolution that Children's Libraries be made available in all States under trained librarians - resolutions sent to each State K.U. for circulation.

1944

- Director-General of Education, Brisbane, requested help from Federal Officer in establishing pre-school centres in Queensland.
- Play Groups. Committee set up to investigate programs and question of short course of training.
- First Parents News Sheets published.

1945

- "Pre-School Centres in Australia" (Cumpston, Director General of Health & Heinig, Federal Officer, APA). Published by Commonwealth Dept. of Health.
- Conference on play groups called by Victorian Department of Health. A.A.P.S.C.D. represented. Report prepared and circulated, all States.

1946

- Special meeting called to discuss and devise a "Pre-School Plan for Australia"
- A.A.P.S.C.D. represented at meeting of International Federation of Childhood Education, Paris.

1947

- New Zealand - request for copies of Parents' News Sheets.
- Standards relating to ratio of trained teachers to children were discussed. Buildings and playgrounds now in operation were listed.

1948

- Darwin and Alice Springs Kindergarten Committees were invited to join Association.
- O.M.E.P. Mrs K.H. Bailey present at inaugural meeting and elected Vice-President (Prague).

1949

- Chair of Child Health proposed at Sydney University. A.A.P.S.C.D. asked Commonwealth Minister of Health to have a Child Development Institute set up under this professor and L.G.C.C.'s to be used as research centres.
- First Analysis of Case History Records, L.G.C.C., 1939-46, by Edna Hill, published by Commonwealth Department of Health (1,000 copies).

1950

- N.T. sought help in establishment of pre-school centres. (Survey made in 1948 by Federal Officer at request of Department of Interior).
- Attempt made (through Commonwealth Office of Education) to obtain grant for training of kindergarten teachers in research and to assess experimental family group planning, Sydney LGCC.
- Department of Immigration approached re pre-school children in immigration centres.
- Drive for registration of pre-school centres with approved standards begun in all States.

1951

- Survey of pre-school centres in Immigration Centres by Federal Officer and submitted to Secretary of the Department.
- Research study by Mr W. Debus - "Aggression ..." Sydney L.G.C.C.
- Research study by A.C.E.R., - "Children's Vocabulary" Melbourne L.G.C.C.
- Research study by Mrs E.D. Ferguson - "Inter-personal Relationships" Melbourne L.G.C.C.

1952

- "Play Materials" published by A.A.P.S.C.D. through Melbourne University Press, underwritten by Commonwealth Department of Health.
- Survey of pre-school services in Commonwealth Hostels made by Federal Officer and O. Leschen.
- Research, "Daily v spaced attendance", Mrs E.D. Ferguson, Melbourne L.G.C.C.
- Social Paediatrics Course, Sydney University medical students commenced at Sydney L.G.C.C. under Dr F.W. Clements.

1953

- Series of six talks, "Understanding Children", given over A.B.C. by Federal Officer.
- Federal Officer participated in Seminar on Mental Health in Childhood organised by W.H.O. (Sydney, August).

1954

- Name of Association changed from Australian Association for Pre-School Child Development (A.A.P.S.C.D.) to Australian Pre-School Association.
- First Pre-School Colombo Plan consultant sent to Ceylon.
- T.P.N.G. - Pre-School Officer appointed to Department of Health. A.P.A. arranged six weeks' observation for her in Victoria and A.C.T.
- Study on "Stress in Childhood" - F.W. Clements, at Sydney L.G.C.C.
- Report on pre-school services in the Northern Territory. Visit to N.T. by Federal Officer 13 March/29 April

1955

- "Pre-School Education in Australia" - comprehensive report compiled by A.P.A.
- Colombo Plan Standing Committee formed.
- Alice Creswick Scholarship Fund established by Mrs Creswick.
- Research - "Language Function and Structure" - Mr Harwood, Hobart L.G.C.C.

1956

- First Research Grant to A.P.A. led to M. Middleton's research at Perth L.G.C.C. on "Children's Concepts of Social Relations"

1957

- Colombo Plan assignments - Federal Officer to the Philippines and J. Fry to Singapore
- A.P.A. sponsored three teachers to undertake the "Psychology of Childhood" course, University of Birmingham

1958

- "Planning the Programme in a Pre-School Centre", by M.J. Roberts, published by A.P.A.
- Research Advisory Committee set up in A.C.T. Universities circulated re setting up research study

1959

- Research Grant from Creswick Foundation. Mr G.B. Sharp, Department of Social Studies, University of Melbourne, approved by Research Advisory Committee. Title : "Maternal Employment and Family Life"
- Second Alice Creswick scholar returned May and was appointed research assistant to Department of Psychology, University of Queensland. (Title: "The Effect of Maternal Employment on Family Relations and Child Development")

1960

- "Music for Movement" records by M. de Crespigny processed by W. & G. Records on sale through L.G.C.C.s by A.P.A.
- Reports on pre-primary education in Australia prepared at request of Commonwealth Office of Education for the International Bureau of Education

1961

- A.P.Q. (Australian Pre-School Quarterly) became responsibility of A.P.A. Subscriptions first year, 600
- "Art for the Child Under Seven" by Frances Derham, published by A.P.A.
- Creswick Foundation grant to A.P.A. to appoint N. Campbell-Smith to Melbourne L.G.C.C. to demonstrate and experiment in interpreting dynamics of Child Development to students

1962

- Appointment of permanent Assistant Federal Officer
- Research - "Relationships between Maternal Behaviour and Early Adjustment of Children in Kindergarten" - Sydney L.G.C.C.

1962 Contd.

- Article on Australian pre-school education prepared for Australian News and Information Bureau
- Aboriginal pre-school children - information collected by A.P.A.

1963

- Colombo Plan: Request from Philippines (via Commonwealth Office of Education) for one year course in pre-school education
- Request from Indonesia re four month course for Mrs Soenjoto
- Request from Georgetown, Malaya, for assistance in forming kindergarten
- Recognition obtained from British Ministry of Education for Australian Kindergarten Teachers with 3 year qualifications to teach in U.K.
- Collection and publication of data related to number of pre-school centres, children enrolled, grants, salary scales

1964

- Distribution of Parents News Sheets reaches 16,743 copies per issue
- Chapter on "Pre-School Education" by Federal Officer published in ACER Review of Education
- One year course organised in conjunction with University of Sydney, for Colombo Plan Students. Eight students from Philippines, 3 from Singapore commenced course in March.
- APA invited to act as nominating body for US Government Teacher Development Program

1965

- Post Diploma Course commenced Melbourne KTC. Standing Committee formed to advise APA on post Diploma studies
- APA approach to Department of Territories regarding research into the needs of Aboriginal pre-school children
- Letter of protest to Prime Minister re Government lack of response to Martin Report. Delegation to Senator Gorton. Both in relation to teacher training in the Territories
- Silver Jubilee - Lady Gowrie Child Centres

1966

- APA invited by Commonwealth Office of Education to make nominations for Commonwealth Advanced Education Scholarship
- Gladys Pendred (Federal Officer) Fund raises \$10,000. To be invested and interest used "to further the ideals of the pre-school movement ..."
- Continued support for establishment of training Colleges in NT and ACT. Senator Gorton meets with APA Executive

1967

- Visit by Federal Officer to Papua New Guinea
- Translation of some Parents News Sheets into Greek and Italian
- Advanced Course provided by Adelaide KTC for Colombo Plan students from Philippines, Indonesia and Thailand
- APA Sub-Committee formed to investigate all forms of full day care. Representatives from all States

1968

- APA meeting with Director General of Health. Recommended establishment of Federal Children's Bureau to collect data on child care from all States/Territories
- Contact with Commonwealth Statistician by Full Day Care Sub-Committee re need for better data on children of working mothers etc.
- Questionnaire on Full Day Care prepared and sent to States
- Information on pre-schools, Kindergarten Teacher Training, etc. prepared by APA for Commonwealth Year Book, and U.N. Year Book
- Announcement by Commonwealth Government of grants totalling \$2.5m for development of pre-school teacher training colleges and programs

1969

- 12th World Assembly of OMEP - Washington, attended by six Australians
- Further consultations by APA Sub-Committee with Commonwealth Bureau of Census and Statistics on data required for planning Day Care Services
- National Capital Development Commission - Pre-School Standards Committee re-convened. APA Federal Officer member
- Advice by APA to ANU on establishment of creche for children of students
- "Understanding Young Children" published by Thos. Nelson & Son. (Collection of Parents News Sheets)
- "Some Aspects of Children's Thinking" (Roberts) published
- APA recommends a Commonwealth Inquiry into the need for Day Care. Aust. Bureau of Stats Survey on Child Care

1970

- LGCCs - responsibility transferred from Dept of Health, to Education & Science
- Visit by Federal Officer to Papua New Guinea
- Publication by OMEP of "International Journal of Early Childhood"
- Support for Victorian Branch recommendation to Depts of Immigration and Education, for appointment of pre-school advisor for Migrant Children
- 10th year of publication - Australian Pre-School Quarterly, 2300 copies published

1971

- Letter to Prime Minister requesting enquiry into Full Day Care.
- Announcement of Govt. scheme to establish child care centres "with approved standards".

1972

- Submissions, representations to Senate Standing Cttee on Education, Science and the Arts enquiry into "Commonwealth Role in Teacher Education".
- Increased Federal Government assistance to Kindergarten Teachers Colleges.
- Child Care Act passed by Federal Parliament. APA named in Act to accredit teachers in Centres funded through Act.
- Child Care Standards Committee established by Federal Government. APA Federal Officer appointed member.
- Advisory Committee for Child Care Research established.
- Letter of protest to Department of Foreign Affairs re nuclear-testing in Pacific.

1973

- Australian Pre-Schools Committee appointed. APA Federal Officer member.
- APC Report tabled in Parliament.
- Australian Association of Early Childhood Educators formed.
- Commonwealth Pre-School Teacher Education Scholarship Scheme announced.

1974

- 107 capital grants for Child Care projects approved.
- 37 research grants in Child Care approved.
- Victorian Consultative Council on Pre-School Child Development tabled. (Council originally formed on recommendation by Victorian Branch).
- APA establishes committee on Accreditation of Auxiliary Courses on Early Childhood Education.
- "Play Materials")
"Art for the Child Under Seven") reprinted
"Helping in Kindergarten")
- APA incorporated in ACT.
- APA "Policy Statement on Children's Services" adopted and circulated to newly formed Interim Committee of the Children's Commission.

1975

- "Children's Services" published. Standards/Guidelines for Services. (Combinations and expansion of Standards Booklets I and II).
- New National APA Constitution approved.

- Grant from Inger Rice Foundation to fund LGCC publications - "First Steps" (Hobart LGCC) published
- APA development proposal endorsed by Executive and circulated to Branches
- "Young Children in Perspective" (Stamp) published.

1976

- APA submission to Senator Guilfoyle for funds to initiate a National Conference on Children's Services and a Survey of Children's Services in Australia.
- Initial APA Resource Information Service established
- Thomson Committee Report on new APA National Cttee structure adopted.
- APA Policy Statement printed and circulated.
- 14th National Conference (Melbourne) largest gathering of people concerned with early childhood ever held in Australia.
- APA advised Child Care Act 1972 to be amended. Comments/recommendations prepared.
- Publication of "Australian Journal of Early Childhood" by APA

1977

- Special Meeting on Accreditation (Adelaide) convened by APA.
- Narrabundah Early Childhood Education Centre (NECEC) established in ACT.
- New and extended basis for awarding Alice Creswick Scholarships adopted.
- New Terms of Reference LGCC approved by Min. for Social Security and APA.
- New Publications Committee structure adopted.
- APA comments on Bailey Report prepared and submitted.

1978

- Publication APA Early Childhood Resource Booklets begun.
- Resource Information Service commenced on subscription basis.
- OMEP World Council Meeting and Seminar (Melbourne).
- Establishment of National Forum of Non-Government Welfare Coordinating Bodies - APA member.
- Publication of "Furniture & Equipment for EC Centres", "A Place in the Procession", and "Planning Early Childhood Programs".
- OMEP Travel Trust established.

1979

- APA support/participation in International Year of the Child.
- Revised "Policy Statement on Children's Services" adopted.
- Revised National Committee Structure adopted after review
- "Frances Derham Scholarship" sponsored by Vic. Branch on behalf of APA.
- Translation project "Parents News Sheets" approved.
- New format and name ("Today's Child") adopted for Parents News Sheets.
- "Accreditation in Early Childhood Services" published.

Most would agree that those sorts of efforts and achievements (and they are only a few examples) provide a good record of success by a community-based organisation, especially given its very limited resources.

At the same time, there does not appear to have been many periods when the Association has "rested on its laurels". That is probably because no matter how much has been done, there always remains things that need to be done at the community level.

Such a situation is not surprising when one considers that the Association aims to work for all children aged from 0-8 years, and their families.

At 30 June 1979, there were approximately 1,400,000 children under 6 years of age in Australia, and some 2,200,000 under 9 years - 9.7% and 15.2% of the total population, respectively. Even those figures suggest a very large target group. But when families are also included, the target group would be in the vicinity of 2.8 to 4.4m, related to the above age group. In other words, between 20% and 30% of the total population.

As part of its effort to undertake this task, APA was established as an organisation of organisations. It now has some 130 member/observer bodies in the 8 States and Territories, which in turn provide services through at least 2500 groups for more than 250,000 children.

Indeed, it would appear that even that estimate, used for several years, may be conservative. Recent figures suggest that there are over 4,500 pre-schools, child care, neighbourhood and community centres, and Family Day Care schemes in Australia. As a very large percentage of those services would be provided by the member/observer organisations related to APA, the number of children and their families involved may be much higher than previously thought.

Even so, it is unlikely that anyone would suggest that the task is completed, and that everything that could be done, has been done. More likely, most would argue that we have just scratched the surface, and that the work of the last 40 years has only provided a basic foundation on which to build.

The remaining 20 year period of the second millenium will see more changes than in the whole of the last century, even with its astounding developments. The new technology will sweep the world and bring about profound change in the way in which we live, work and relax. It will change education and employment opportunities, increase leisure time, reduce the need for unskilled labour and in many other ways, alter the entire society in which we live. It has been suggested that the Technological Revolution will have at least the same effect on society as did the Industrial Revolution, but it will only take 20 years to occur instead of 150 years.

Such a development will mean that attitudes will also need to change much more rapidly than in the past, if the individual in society is going to cope. New types of skills will be required to live in the 1980s and 1990s, and education and training will also need to adapt at a much greater rate. Governments will need to respond with appropriate legislation and programs, and organisations providing services will have to become more able to monitor immediate and potential needs.

It is in this situation that the APA must redefine its role, and it faces a major problem in doing so, because its resources have reached an extremely critical point. There are several reasons for this:

- (a) The Federal Government Grant-in-Aid, the prime source of funds for the National Association, has not been appreciably increased in the last four years. The operation of the national office is now under threat.
- (b) The early childhood field is suffering from the results of a major expansion in services which occurred in the first half of the last decade, followed by a contraction of financial resources during the second half. As a consequence, most programs are under-resourced in both available cash and staffing, a situation which grows worse each year because available funds cannot cover recurrent costs, let alone the new projects that are continually being developed. Such a strain in APA member organisations means that they are less able to assist, both in terms of cash and time, in activities in which APA Branches and the National Association wish to become involved.
- (c) The unclear "Federalism" policy of the Federal Government has led to confusion, and a lessening of the ability of APA and its member organisations to obtain funds for their operations. This, coupled with a generally inadequate consultative process, has provided the opportunity for a certain amount of "buck-passing" by State/Federal Governments in relation to providing funds for Services.
- (d) A tendency toward an attitude in some Government Departments that the money they are responsible for disbursing is their own, and not the tax-payers. The statement "We funded that ..." etc., appears to be used more frequently now by some Government officials. Even more disturbing, and potentially very dangerous, is the use of indirect or subtle threats of the withdrawal of funds from organisations which may be critical of Government policies and/or programs. Such a development in a democratic society must be strongly resisted. Obviously, groups which are clearly political and biased toward or against one particular party, are not likely to receive community support in terms of grants of tax-payers' dollars. But groups which, in their stated purposes and practices, are apolitical must be able to provide critical comment from time to time, without fear of recrimination.
- (e) The fragmentation and lack of coordination in the early childhood field which has developed during the last decade. As one example, it might be noted that the National Association invites Federal Government Departments and other national bodies with a concern for young children, to send observers to the Annual Meeting of the Council. That list has grown to 36 such Departments/organisations in 1980. The task of coordinating the efforts of those bodies, (regardless of who might take the initiative in doing so) is therefore a mammoth one. Fragmentation leads to duplication of services, more calls on scarce resources, and the lack of a unified voice in encouraging effective policies and practices.

The word "coordination" is not synonymous with "control". It should not discourage individual and group initiatives. It should, however, facilitate the ability of people to come together to discuss mutual problems and possible solutions. It should provide access to information required to provide an effective service and it should discourage duplication and wastage of resources. It should further encourage combined effort when necessary and desirable.

Is that the role of the Australian Pre-School Association in the 1980's? Within that general framework, of course, could be listed several hundred individual tasks, projects and programs, some long-term, some short-term. They in turn would need to be given some realistic priority rating, according to available resources.

But then comes the key question of what those available resources are, or should be. While it is realistic to recognise that there are never likely to be as many resources available as we may wish, it is also realistic to examine whether an effective role can be played with those presently available. In other words, to what extent can an organisation limit its operation to fit available resources, and still be effective?

It is possible that APA has reached the point where such a question must be closely examined and the appropriate action taken. Although that comment relates primarily to the national association, several Branches are also experiencing severe financial problems. And if Branches are unable support national programs, both will suffer.

At the beginning of the new decade, the Australian Pre-School Association is faced with a daunting task, and in many ways, is poorly equipped to meet the challenge of the 80's. It does, however, still have the valuable resource of dedicated people prepared to support its objectives and efforts. But that too, is a finite quantity. People and organisations who do not feel they are being adequately represented, or are not receiving the assistance they require in order to function effectively themselves, will become discouraged, and the Association will lose their support.

APA has reached a critical point in its history, and its survival as an effective organisation may well depend upon the action it takes during the next twelve months. It has faced crises before and overcome them. It can of course, do so again, but only if its member/observer organisations and Branches are prepared to make the effort to fight for its survival. If it does not have that support, it does not, in any case, deserve to survive.

ACCREDITATION:

Throughout this report there are several areas where it has been noted that due to the limited resources of the national body, APA has been forced to restrict its involvement in various matters in which it should and would wish to be taking some action.

National Accreditation is one such area. A number of matters requiring follow-up attention were identified at the Special Meeting on Accreditation in Adelaide in August 1977. Recommendations from that Meeting were noted in the "Accreditation in Early Childhood Services" booklet, published by APA in 1979.

There was also the assumption that this matter would be discussed as part of the consultations which would be arranged on the new Children's Services Bill, which was expected to be introduced to Federal Parliament in the Budget Session 1979 and then the Autumn Session 1980. This did not occur.

As noted below, the subject of Accreditation will be discussed in detail at a Professional Officers Meeting to be held prior to the 1980 Council Meeting.

BRANCHES:

This report generally covers the work of the National Association. Reports of Branch activities are compiled separately and tabled at the Annual Meeting of the Council. However, each Branch has been requested to provide a short summary of its 1979-80 report, so that for the first time, separate documents made up of those summaries may be compiled and distributed with the national APA Report, after the 1980 Council Meeting. In this way, a more complete and detailed picture will be given of the overall work of the Association.

A list of Branch member/observer organisations (and associate members where applicable) is provided in Appendix A. Presidents and Secretaries of APA Branches are listed at the beginning of this Report.

The changing situation in the early childhood field has also been reflected in the number of changes that Branches have been making to their Constitutions. Three (ACT, Qld. and Tasmania) have either been altered or have proposed alterations during 1979-80.

As part of its "Federalism" Policy, the Commonwealth Government has said that it will no longer provide funds for Branches of national organisations, as part of the Federal Grant-in-Aid. This has not affected APA a great deal, funds have been available for passing on to Branches. However, Branches were advised of this policy during the year, and it was suggested they should consider approaching their respective State/Territory Governments for financial assistance for Branch activities.

CHILD CARE ACT 197 /APA ACCREDITATION:

At the last APA Council Meeting it was resolved:

"That APA extends the interim period for determining certain qualifications as appropriate for 'teacher' under the Child Care Act until such time as the amendments to that Act have been proclaimed".

Since the Child Care Act 1972 has not been amended, the APA, under Section 11(5) of that Act, continues to accept responsibility for the accreditation of teachers working in Centres that are funded under the Act.

From February 1979 to August 1980, fourteen (14) teachers were approved by APA. Others would have been approved directly by the Office of Child Care since their qualifications corresponded with those already approved by the APA for automatic accreditation.

The APA has received requests for:

1. A definition of Early Childhood Education in relation to Courses. Currently Diploma of Teaching (ECE) courses range from those covering the 0-5 year age group to those offering an optional major in the 5-8 year age group.
2. Relaxation of guidelines for accreditation of staff employed in centres located in geographically isolated areas.
3. Accreditation of Child Care Certificate holders as Teachers for the purposes of attracting subsidy under the Child Care Act 1972.
4. A definition of "a professional in the field" from whom teachers with lesser than 3 year pre-school teachers qualifications are required to obtain a letter of recommendation.

The APA Professional Officers Meeting 24 August 1980 will re-examine and make recommendations to Council 26-28 August 1980 re APA's criteria for accrediting teachers with lesser than 3 year trained pre-school teacher qualifications.

It should be noted that accreditation is a time-consuming process and that the APA receives no specified funding from the Federal Government to cover the costs involved in meeting Child Care Act responsibilities.

The Grant-in-Aid covers the "national coordinating function" of the Association and the coordination of the LGCC program. Both of these areas have expanded over the past 14 months. The 1980 Council Meeting may need to discuss this matter in relation to funding and national office staff commitments.

It should be noted that the need to amend the Child Care Act 1972 was first raised with APA at an Executive Meeting in October 1976, and comments invited. Nearly four years later, the Amendments to the Act have not yet been introduced into the Federal Parliament. Much correspondence on this matter has been entered into with the Minister for Social Security and the Office of Child Care. At the July 1980 Meeting of the APA Executive, it was agreed to ask the Minister to make available a draft of the new Bill for the 1980 Council Meeting, and a reply was being waited upon at the time of writing this Report.

The Education Director of APA participated in two one-day meetings of the Higher Education Board, NSW, in assessing the SKTC proposal for a Conversion Course from Diploma of Sydney Kindergarten Teachers College to Diploma of Teaching.

COMMITTEES:

The APA National Committee Structure is shown in Appendix B.

This structure was agreed upon at the 1979 Council Meeting, after a detailed review of the APA National Committee Structure had been undertaken. Appropriate action was taken after the Council Meeting to establish the new structure. The restricted resources of the national Association has worked against more rapid development of the new arrangement, and it has been difficult to assist the newly established Committees in beginning to act under their Terms of Reference. A proposed meeting of Chairmen of Committees in March 1980 with the National Executive, could not be held because finance was not available.

However, a Meeting of National Committee Chairmen has been arranged for 25 August 1980, prior to the 1980 Council. The Meeting will consider the roles of the Committees in relation to APA policy and the working relationships of Committees, APA Executive, Branches and national office. Recommendations from the Meeting will be presented to the Council Meeting.

Minor alterations were proposed by the Research, Evaluation and Development Committee (Victorian Branch) to the Terms of Reference adopted by the Annual Meeting of the Council 12-14 May 1979. These alterations were accepted by APA Executive 3-5 October 1979. As the NSW Branch notified APA Executive that at this time it was unable to accept responsibility for the Developmental Needs of Children Committee, the Queensland Branch accepted responsibility for examining and redrafting the Terms of Reference for that Committee. The redrafted Terms of Reference were approved at the APA Executive Meeting 8-10 July 1980 for distribution to Branches. These will be discussed at the 1980 Annual Council Meeting.

At the APA Executive Meeting 31 March-2 April 1980, it was resolved that:

"The Executive Committee recommend to Council that the National LGCC Standing Committee be disbanded.

This action is recommended because of the emphasis now placed on the regular Meeting of the APA Education Director, LGCC Directors and NECEC Coordinator, together with another representative from the appropriate Gowrie/NECEC Committee according to Agenda topics.

The Executive recorded their appreciation for the past work of the members of the Standing Committee and acknowledged the close relationship of APA, LGCCs and NECEC".

Reports from the Committee Chairmen are provided in Section 2 of this Report.

Membership of Committees during 1979-80 is included at the beginning of this Report.

APA CONFERENCES, MEETINGS, EVENTS:

The 1979 Council Meeting resolved that Standing Orders for Council procedure should be drafted for consideration at the next Meeting. This was done, and the draft circulated to Branches and members of the Council.

The APA 15th National Triennial Conference was held in Sydney immediately after the 1979 Council Meeting. The NSW Branch planned and hosted the Conference, which attracted over 600 participants. The detailed organisation of the Conference, and the well balanced program, contributed to its success, as was evidenced by the many unsolicited messages of congratulations received after the Conference by the NSW Branch. A more detailed Report by Conference Committee Convener, Mrs Barbara McNulty, may be found in Appendix C.

The Tasmanian Branch accepted the invitation of the Council to host the 1982 16th National Triennial Conference, and planning was well advanced at the time of the writing of this Report. The Conference will be held in Hobart 24-28 May 1982. Mrs Val Walch has been appointed Conference Committee Convener.

It was noted at the March 1979 Executive Meeting, that if National Conferences continue on a triennial basis, the 18th Conference would be held in 1988. This would coincide with the 50th anniversary of the founding of APA, and also with Australia's Bicentennial of European settlement. If regular rotation of Branch hosting continues, the Conference would be held in the A.C.T. It was agreed that this item should be raised at the 1980 Council Meeting, as longer forward planning than usual may be required.

At the March 1980 Meeting of the APA National Executive, it was agreed that a Professional Officers Meeting would be held prior to the 1980 Council Meeting and that for the first time, an Early Childhood Workshop would be held also, and be open to all who wished to participate. The former will be held 24 August 1980, and will discuss the following subjects:

1. APA Standards - "Quality Care"
2. Licensing Regulations - State and Territory
3. Commercial Child Care Centres
4. Accreditation

The Workshop will be held 25 August, and discuss:

1. Funding under the Child Care Act 1972
2. Proposed State Workshops and National Seminar.
Interface between Pre-School and Day Care
3. Future directions for APA

Recommendations from these Meetings will be presented and discussed at Council.

DEVELOPMENT PROPOSALS:

Most of the APA Development Proposals of 1975 have been implemented in their original or an amended form. Some were not proceeded with after discussion and further investigation. As it is five years since those proposals were first made, it may be an appropriate time to summarise action taken on them, and such a report is provided in Appendix D.

One item still to be finalised in the proposed change of name. Two alternatives were proposed at the 1979 Council Meeting ("Australian Association for Young Children", "Australian Early Childhood Association") and the latter was narrowly defeated. The Australian Early Childhood Association has been proposed again for Council consideration in 1980. A change in name requires a Constitutional amendment, and a two-thirds majority vote.

The question of what directions the Association's efforts should take during the next 5-10 years has been discussed in general terms in the Introduction to this Report. More detailed discussions will be held at the Workshop, 24 August 1980, prior to Council Meeting. Recommendations from that Meeting will be presented at the 1980 Annual Council Meeting.

FINANCE:

The critical financial situation of the National Association has been referred to in the Introduction to this Report, and will need detailed examination at the 1980 Council Meeting. A deficit of \$3,730 was recorded for the 1978-79 financial year, and although the accounts for 1979-80 had not been finalised at the time of writing this Report, a deficit in excess of \$9,000 is likely.

This will reduce the Association's General Fund to zero, leaving it with virtually no reserves to call on for its basic operation. While many of its programs and projects are funded separately through special grants, donations from Trust Funds and individuals, and subscriptions, it is the General Fund which supports those services through providing the national office facilities without which they could not operate.

This situation has arisen primarily because of the Federal Government attitude towards Grants-in-Aid to national coordinating bodies. Those grants have been virtually frozen for the last four years, and have not been increased sufficiently to even cope with the rate of inflation. This is a curious approach, given the Government's anxiety over the rapidly increasing Social Security Appropriation in the Budget. Instead of consulting with, and providing reasonable resources for, organisations which may be able to assist in overcoming duplication of services and encouraging better services for available dollars, the Federal Government appears to want to weaken them and reduce their effectiveness.

It may be that the Government feels that stronger national bodies will only provide more pressure for more funds, and that is a legitimate concern. But the conclusion is not necessarily correct. National bodies are usually responsible types of organisations which do recognise the problems facing the Australian economy, and do not simply follow a policy which states that the answer to all social problems is more and more money. Given the opportunity, they may be able to propose action from which the Federal Government would benefit. But while the Government sees the Grant-in-Aid as a form of "donation" instead of necessary support for important community institutions, problems will continue.

A further report on this subject is provided under the heading Other Organisations and Related Projects, where details are given of the approach by the Forum of National Non-Government Welfare Coordinating Bodies to the Minister for Social Security, Senator Dame Margaret Guilfoyle.

The following details are provided to give some indication of the response to APA requests for a Grant-in-Aid in the last five years. Estimates of the grant required to retain the 1975/76 grant at its real value, after providing for inflation, are also given. However, the real comparison should be between the amount requested, and the amount provided, as the former is the figure agreed upon by the APA national staff, Finance Committee, and National Executive, as that required to perform an effective coordinating role.

	<u>Grant Requested</u>		<u>Grant Received</u>		<u>Grant required to retain real value of 75/76 Grant</u>
1975/76	56,000		56,000		-
1976/77	68,647		64,400		63,280
1977/78	76,115		65,000		72,013
1978/79	96,330		50,000	20,000 (70,000)	78,854
1979/80	76,600	35,300 (111,900)	50,000	26,000 (76,000)	85,320
1980/81	84,296	59,845 (144,141)	?	?	94,023

(Note: From 1978/79, the APA Grant and the LGCC Coordinating Grant was split. The APA Grant details are shown first in the above table.)

Once again, we record with sincere appreciation, the valuable assistance provided by the Association's Honorary Auditor, Peat, Marwick and Mitchell. Their support has continued in spite of the expansion in the activities of the national Association, and the subsequent increase in the amount of book-keeping involved.

GOVERNMENT RELATIONS AND DEVELOPMENTS:

The Association's relationship with the Federal Government and its Departments might be described as good, but not as frequent or as broad as desirable. This is very much a result of the limited time national staff have available for making and maintaining those contacts.

Even so, a general increase and improvement may be reported during 1979-80. Fairly frequent discussions are held with officers of the Office of Child Care, particularly in relation to the Lady Gowrie Child Centres. A special meeting was held in March 1980, during which the APA Executive and Education Directors outlined APA history, structure and recent developments to senior staff of that office. It is hoped that such meetings will be held on a more regular basis. Contact is maintained at less frequent intervals with the Commonwealth Department of Education, and is usually of an information-sharing nature. That Department regularly receives requests for information on pre-school and early childhood services in Australia, and APA is often able to assist with material or references.

The development of the Forum of National Non-Government Welfare Coordinating Bodies has also led to a greater contact with related Government officers, especially those from the Social Welfare Policy Secretariat, and further reference is made to this contact later in this Report.

There appears to have been little development in regard to the Children's Services Sub-Committees of the National Consultative Council on Social Welfare, and the only two formed to date have been in the A.C.T. and the Northern Territory. (The Association has never stated its position on those Sub-Committees, and probably should do so).

Action has been taken by national staff to improve its contact with Federal Parliamentarians. All Federal MPs receive letters from APA at least twice a year, outlining recent developments, but there continues to be a need to meet personally with MPs who are either directly related to the Children's Services program, or have a special interest in the welfare of young children. During 1979/80, meetings have been arranged with Federal MPs such as Senator Don Grimes, Shadow Minister for Social Security, Senator Shirley Walters,

Chairman of the Senate Estimates Committee, which examines the Children's Services Budget, and several others, to let them know more of the work of APA. These contacts are in addition to the rather constant flow of correspondence with the Minister for Social Security, Senator Dame Margaret Guilfoyle. Two meetings of Forum representatives were held with Senator Guilfoyle during the first part of 1980, on the matter of funding for national organisations. The Minister also opened the renovated Lady Gowrie Child Centre in Hobart in September 1979, and visited the Brisbane Centre to observe the program, in November 1979.

Discussions were also held with Senator Chaney and later Mr McLeay (sequentially Ministers for Administrative Services) about the Association's accommodation problems.

But even though contact with Federal MPs and Government Departments has increased, it is still far from adequate, and much remains to be done in this area. Such developments should be given a high priority, as it is that type of relationship which will help to improve the Association's ability to influence the development of Children's Services in Australia.

Federal Government Funding Policies for Children's Services remain generally unclear to the community at large. Certainly the continued delay in the introduction of the Children's Services Bill (referred to above) has not helped in this regard. That delay also tends to reinforce the notion that Children's Services have a low priority in regard to Government attention. The area of early childhood education has, to a large degree, been abandoned by the Federal Government, and left largely to the States to implement. Either because of political pressure, more enlightenment, or greater attention to recent research and developments, most States have responded with increased funding for pre-schools and the adoption of specific policies. There remains, however, much work to be done in developing areas of common interest in this field, and for providing for more interchange of ideas and personnel across State borders.

The Federal Government Budget allocation for Children's Services was increased during the International Year of the Child from \$65m in 1978/79 to \$69.2m in 1979/80. This was the first increase since the present Federal Government came to power. Appendix E provides details of Federal Government funding for the Children's Services Program since 1973-74, when major funds first became available from the Australian Government. It also shows the allocation of funds to "pre-school" and "child-care" during the same period and the percentage of each in relation to the total allocation. Some figures indicating State Government expenditure on pre-school education have been provided in Appendix F, but should be taken as estimates only. This is an area where additional data needs collecting.

An APA media statement was issued immediately after the 1979/80 Budget was announced under the heading "Federal Budget Better for Children". It was suggested in that statement that the budget was better for children on the basis that more funds were being made available. But it was recognised at the time that "better" did not mean "best", and that Australia was far from reaching the point of being able to say what mixture of health, education and welfare services should be provided for young children in Australia, the extent to which those services should be provided, their estimated cost, and how much of that cost should be borne by the taxpayer, and how much directly by the consumer.

No-one truly knows whether the initial \$75m made available in 1974-75 was the "right" amount, or a "best guess". If it was "right", then it should have been increased each year, to be approximately \$120m in 1979-80, just to keep pace with inflation. In other words, its real value has been nearly halved in that 5 year period. Obviously, other factors would affect that allocation, such as the need (or lack of need) for capital expenditure, the amounts provided by State Governments for Children's Services, and so on. But while no clear overall plan exists for the development of Children's Services in Australia, the real cost will remain unknown.

The Federal Government's "children in need" policy is to be commended, but it does lead to confusion when "need" can be, and is, interpreted in many different ways, and may be altered to suit the circumstance, or the budget.

In fairness, it must be noted that the lack of adequate data on Children's Services has been a major factor working against forward planning. It has therefore been encouraging to note that the first national collection of information is to take place in September/October 1980, the result of three years work by the National Data Base Workshop. Data is to be obtained via standard questionnaires to be distributed and collected by State Government Departments (the actual Department will vary from State to State and Territory) and then be processed by the Australian Bureau of Statistics. Initial information should become available early in 1981.

It has been a matter of some concern to APA, that community organisations (which continue to provide the majority of Children's Services in Australia) were denied representation on the National Data Base Workshop, and several letters were written to the Office of Child Care and Senator Guilfoyle about this. The Workshop did agree early in 1980, to set up one-day Seminars for national organisations and later for State/Territory bodies. The first was held 1 May 1980, in Melbourne, and APA was represented. Unfortunately, by that time all initial planning was completed, and questions finalised, so that the session was restricted to telling organisations what was to happen, rather than providing an opportunity for input. Thus service-providing organisations may or may not be able to obtain the information they need from the data to be collected.

The APA National Executive was advised of this and it was agreed that the NSW Branch be invited to develop a questionnaire to be distributed to APA member/observer organisations after the collection in September/October. This will provide an opportunity to comment on the process, the data collection questionnaire, and the questions asked.

At the 1979 Council Meeting, a resolution was passed calling for the establishment of a National Children's Bureau. When this proposal was forwarded to Senator Guilfoyle, she replied that she felt the Office of Child Care was fulfilling the type of role proposed for the Bureau. At about the same time, another organisation adopted a similar name, and as confusion was likely to occur, no further action was taken by APA on the Council resolution.

In the last Annual Report, action was reported on APA efforts to be included in pre-Budget consultations. No further correspondence was received on this matter from the Prime Minister's Department. There has been discussion within the Forum of National Non-Government Welfare Coordinating Bodies about consultation with community groups on budget planning, and it may be that a coordinated approach to the Federal Government on this subject, may elicit a more positive response.

The APA financial situation, and the consequent limiting of the Association's resources, has made it virtually impossible to become involved in the major question of Sales Tax Exemption for Playgroups and other services not currently exempt. However, a Canberra solicitor has volunteered to assist with legal advice, once the key questions are clarified, and the South Australian Branch has been asked to assist in this regard, by providing a resume of the current position, and the difficulties being experienced by groups.

In regard to State/Territory developments. The ACT, several States and the Federal Government anticipated introducing new Child Welfare Laws during the International Year of the Child, but none was able to do so. However, it is understood that, at the time of writing this Report:

- NSW : proposed new legislation "Community Welfare Bill" is before the State Parliament
- ACT : the Law Reform Commission has concluded hearings on Licensing Standards in Day Care
- In the NT, Qld and WA, Licensing Standards are under review
- SA - consideration is being given to alter the policy related to pre-school education to include children 3½ years of age

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT REPORTS AFFECTING CHILDREN AND FAMILIES:

The initial response by the Federal Government to the Report of the Royal Commission on Human Relationships, and the "silence" that has ensued since it was tabled in Parliament, has led to speculation that it may meet the fate of other Reports which have been shelved. Certainly there appears to have been little action during 1979-80.

The First Report of the Task Force on Coordination of Health and Welfare (Bailey Report) appears to have been treated in the same way. However, the two major recommendations of the Second Report have received attention, with the establishment of the Social Welfare Policy Secretariat. Although established in the Department of Social Security for administrative purposes, the Secretariat is reasonably independent, and the Head reports to the Federal Cabinet via a Social Welfare Policy Committee, consisting of 11 Ministers, and a Permanent Heads Committee. The latter consists of the Permanent Heads of 4 Departments - Prime Minister and Cabinet, Social Security, Health, Finance - and the Social Welfare Policy Secretariat.

The second recommendation from Bailey, the establishment of a National Consultative Council, was referred to the Secretariat. Officers from the Secretariat have discussed this matter with the Forum of National Non-Government Welfare Coordinating Bodies, and are awaiting a paper on consultative procedures being developed by the Forum. (See also report on Forum under "Other Organisations").

The recommendations of the Senate Standing Committee Report "Impact of Television on the Development and Learning Behaviour of Children" was discussed at the 1979 Council Meeting. Branches were asked to send comments on those recommendations to national APA, for correlation. Unfortunately, only one Branch responded. Once again, the lack of national APA resources becomes apparent, as it is unfortunate that more follow-up and support was not able to be given by APA to many of the excellent recommendations contained in the Report.

The Report on Migrant Services and Programmes (Galbally) has been strongly supported by the Federal Government, and funds made available for implementing most of its recommendations. (The national APA multicultural projects being developed as a result are reported in the Publications Committee Report). Contact has been maintained with the Multicultural Resource Centre of the Kindergarten Union of Victoria, and other bodies working in this field. The Association has also been endeavouring to clarify the various ways by which funding is being provided by the Federal Government, and will distribute details in a Resource Information Bulletin as soon as possible.

Another Federal Government Report, the Report of the Senate Standing Committee on Social Welfare "Through a Glass Darkly" (Baume Report) had only just been tabled at the time of the 1979 APA Council Meeting. The WA Branch agreed to examine the Report, and its implications for APA, and circulate comments. This was done in June 1980, and this matter will be discussed in detail at the 1980 Council Meeting. Several of the recommendations dealt with the need for more (and more accurate) data to be developed in the social welfare field. As a result, the Social Welfare Policy Secretariat set up a one-day conference in Canberra on 27 March 1980, and invited representatives from the Forum of National Non-Government Welfare Coordinating Bodies, several research bodies, Australian Bureau of Statistics, etc.

The Conference could only make a general beginning that day, and requested a second gathering. This was arranged by one of the participants, the Social Welfare Research Centre of the University of NSW, and planned for 2-3 July 1980 in Sydney. That Seminar was able to examine the subject in more detail and come to some appreciation of its complexity. It recommended that the Forum of National Non-Government Welfare Coordinating Bodies establish a Working Group to prepare a detailed proposal on data requirements of the non-government sector. In doing so, it advised the Secretariat that such proposals could only be prepared if adequate resources were made available to the Working Group.

INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF THE CHILD:

Whether IYC was a "success" or not, will no doubt be debated for some time to come. Regardless of the answer, it can be reported that APA, given its limited resources, provided considerable support for the "Year". The Association was represented on the National Committee of Non-Government Organisations by the President, Lady Thomson, who also became Convener of the Sub-Committee responsible for looking into "The Child Under Threat".

In this, she received strong support from the Queensland Branch, and organised a large number of public meetings, seminars and a conference, in Queensland. It was necessary to restrict activity to one State, as no funding other than "petty cash" was made available for the national sub-committees. The last meeting of the National NGOs Committee was held in February 1980, when Senator Guilfoyle joined the Committee to discuss its recommendations. Lady Thomson's report will be one of only two which are to be published by the National Committee.

There were a considerable number of projects undertaken by APA Branches, and the Lady Gowrie Child Centres during the International Year of the Child, and these have been summarised in Appendix G. They are covered in more detail in Branch and Centre Reports covering the same period.

LADY GOWRIE CHILD CENTRES:

Throughout the last 12 months, while Centres have continued to develop their programs (see Appendix H for brief description of each Centre's programs) emphasis has been placed on the research and evaluation components of the LGCC program. The APA Education Director and the Officer in Charge of the OCC Research Section visited each Centre during July/August 1980 to discuss the individual Centre's commitments to research and evaluation, and the overall national LGCC programs.

Each Centre has either established, or extended, the membership of a Research and Evaluation Sub-Committee. In December 1979 the first general meeting of LGCC Directors, Representatives of Research and Evaluation Sub-Committees, the APA Research, Evaluation and Development Committee, APA and the Office of Child Care, was held in Melbourne. Recommendations from that meeting as amended by APA Executive, appear in Appendix I. The recommended alterations to the LGCC Terms of Reference introduced by the Minister for Social Security, August 1977, appear in Appendix J. The Minister has notified APA that these suggested alterations will be discussed at a meeting of Directors and representatives of LGCC Research and Evaluation Sub-Committees, APA and the Office of Child Care in September 1980.

It was generally agreed at the December 1979 meeting that LGCC R & E Sub-Committees would act in an advisory capacity to Centres and that each Centre should be encouraged to employ, either on a part-time basis or, where necessary, in connection with a particular research/evaluation project, qualified research staff to design and conduct such projects in consultation with LGCC Committees and staff. Evaluation is seen as an essential component of each Centres' programs and Centres have been encouraged to build an evaluation component into existing and new programs. Where possible, the cost of evaluation and research are included in the annual Grant-in-Aid submissions. Additionally, Centres are able, as are other organisations, to submit specific research proposals to the Office of Child Care at any time throughout the year. These are considered on their merit and in relation to priorities set by the Office of Child Care. A further 2-day Directors Meeting, followed by a 2-day working group meeting of LGCC Directors, representatives of Research and Evaluation Sub-Committees, the Chairman of the APA Research, Evaluation and Development Committee, the APA Education Director and officers of the Office of Child Care, is scheduled for September 1980.

The new Perth Centre commenced operation as a full day care centre, 14 February 1980. The Centre will be officially opened by Her Excellency Lady Cowen 18 August 1980. The establishment of this new Centre indicates the extension in the role of the LGCCs in the early childhood field. Historically, the LGCCs were established at a time when there was marked variation in the standard of pre-school education throughout Australia. The new Terms of Reference for the LGCCs introduced by the Minister for Social Security, Senator Margaret Guilfoyle, in August 1977, acknowledge that the Gowries are expected now to address issues related to the wider range of early childhood services. In this way, the Gowries will contribute to stabilising the standard of care and education provided by the increased type and number of services, providing out-of-home care for young children. The enormous contribution of the Director of the Perth LGCC, Mrs Jane Innes, in establishing this new Centre is acknowledged with appreciation.

It was with regret that the Centre Management Committee learnt that Mrs Innes intends to retire in late 1980. The position has been advertised and a new Director will be appointed in September 1980.

The Committees and staff of the LGCCs are listed at the beginning of this Report.

The Brisbane, Sydney and Melbourne Centres are engaged in the rather lengthy process leading to incorporation. Discussions have been taking place with the Brisbane and Hobart Centres regarding the possibility of transferring ownership from the Commonwealth to the Centres. The 99-year lease for the Sydney Centre will be transferred from the Kindergarten Union of NSW, to the Centre, once the latter becomes incorporated. (The lease was originally arranged with the Kindergarten Union, as those organisations in each State were directly involved in the establishment of the Centres). The ownership/lease arrangements for Adelaide, Melbourne and Perth have been "regularised" for some time. Once arrangements are finalised by the other three Centres, an exercise commenced in 1976 will have been completed. That process was aimed at clarifying and regularising the ownership and use of each Centre, which in some cases had become confused over the 40 years the Centres have been in existence.

Closer ties are being developed between the LGCC program and the Narrabundah Early Childhood Education Centre (NECEC) in the A.C.T. A report on NECEC may be found in Appendix K.

NATIONAL OFFICE OPERATION/STAFF:

The staff of the national office remained the same throughout the period of this Report, with the exception of one of the Publications Assistants. A pilot project involving the appointment of a part-time Publications Officer for six months, commenced in May 1980. More details are provided in the Publications Committee Report. There is an urgent need to clarify staff conditions in the national office. The National Executive, at its meeting in March 1980, decided to implement a Work Value Study.

At the 1979 Council Meeting, reports were given about the office accommodation arrangements for the Associations, and its move to Acton House. It was noted that the Department of Administrative Services was insisting that rent be paid for the space being used by APA, and this matter had been the subject of discussion and correspondence with several Cabinet Ministers and numerous Departmental officers. As the Association's funds had become extremely limited, the Executive felt that office space could not be retained in Acton House, and arrangements were made to move the national office to the West Wing of the Watson Primary School (September 1979). Classrooms and a staff room which were no longer being used by the School were converted to offices. While the accommodation is adequate, there are several difficulties associated with the present arrangement - the location of the school itself in an outer Canberra suburb; some "domestic" arrangements which cause problems from time to time; the need to pay rent of approximately \$2,000 which, while quite reasonable for the space available, is nonetheless a "new" expense for the Association; most importantly, lack of tenure - the current lease ("Deed of Licence") provides for only one month's notice to vacate. While it is unlikely that such short notice would be given, the West Wing may well be part of discussions involving the ultimate fate of the School, which is now operating at about half its total capacity.

In January 1980, the Minister for Administrative Services, Mr McLeay, advised the Association that the back rent for Acton House had been waived.

After three years of discussion, and numerous drafts, a detailed proposal requesting a grant to build a joint National Headquarters in Canberra, was sent to Senator Guilfoyle on 2 April 1980. Identical proposals were forwarded with covering letters, by the four organisations concerned - the Australian Council of Social Service (ACOSS), the Australian Council on the Ageing (ACOTA), the National Youth Council (NYCA), and the Australian Pre-School Association (APA). The proposal referred to a grant of \$500,000 by the Federal Government

to another member of the Forum of National Non-Government Welfare Coordinating Bodies - the Australian Council for Rehabilitation of Disabled (ACROD), and suggested that the two buildings be "complementary". This would mean they would be built on adjoining lots, and that the organisations would be able to share some of the facilities in each building (e.g. libraries, meeting rooms, data processing etc.).

On 26 June, the Acting Minister for Social Security, responded with the following seven-line letter:

The Minister for Social Security, Senator Guilfoyle, has asked me to thank you for sending her a copy of the submission for a grant from the Commonwealth Government to establish a joint national headquarters building in Canberra for national welfare co-ordinating bodies. However, the Minister regrets that she is unable to support this project.

The Forum has not met since the letters were sent to the four organisations which made the proposal. The APA position on this and other alternatives will need to be discussed in some detail at the 1980 Council Meeting, to decide on further action, if any.

OMEP:

A detailed Report on the work of the OMEP Standing Committee has been prepared by the Convener, Mrs Ellie Pullin, and is included in Section 2 of this Report. Once again, the commitment of many people in Australia to the development of the world body, has been evident. Without that commitment, and Mrs Pullin's tireless efforts, the support of Australia for OMEP would not have been possible. It should be noted that in several member countries, OMEP Committees receive Government grants for their operation. In Australia, no such funds are made available, although some other national bodies with international affiliations do receive consideration for this type of work in their annual Grants. The OMEP Standing Committee has not only carried out its responsibilities to the World Body, but has also had to raise the funds with which to do so. The financial support of individuals and APA Branches is acknowledged with sincere gratitude.

OTHER ORGANISATIONS AND RELATED PROJECTS:

The Forum of National Non-Government Welfare Coordinating Bodies made slow but steady progress during 1979-80. The Forum faces two major difficulties:

- (a) A clear definition of its role in relation to its member/observer bodies, and the need to overcome the occasional concern of those who on the one hand see the Forum becoming a monolithic coordinating body, or on the other, are prepared to only accept the advantages without the effort needed to obtain those advantages.
- (b) The problem of Forum business needing to be dealt with by the member/observer bodies, in addition to work loads which are already extremely heavy. Thus the development of discussion papers, proposals etc., take longer than they should and often are not given as much attention as they require.

In spite of these problems, several developments during the period under review should be noted:

- The joint national headquarters proposal (already noted) was finalised and submitted to the Federal Government.
- A paper on Consultative procedures was further developed, and was nearing completion at the time of writing this Report. This paper proposes the method by which the Forum will operate, and will be used as a basis for discussion with the Social Welfare Policy Secretariat, in regard to the second recommendation of the Second Bailey Report (noted earlier in this Report).
- An excellent paper on the Funding of National Coordinating Bodies was developed during the first half of 1980, following discussions with Senator Guilfoyle and senior staff of the Department of Social Security, on 3 March. This paper was forwarded to Senator Guilfoyle prior to a second meeting in Melbourne on 2 June. The Minister agreed it was a most useful document, and one which she could use to discuss the situation with her colleagues who were involved in the Grant-in-Aid process. (An outline of that process has been provided in Appendix L, to indicate its complexity, and the many points at which the Grant submission faces "challenge", in relation to an increase). The meeting on 2 June concluded with Senator Guilfoyle proposing that Forum representatives should meet again with her, and with the Ministers for Administrative Services and Finance.
- Using the name and potential "purchasing power" of the Forum, substantial discounts in regard to hotel accommodation and car hire were negotiated for Forum members. Discounts on air fares were also obtained, but were cancelled at the time of writing this Report, when the Federal Minister for Transport instructed both airlines to cease discounting forthwith.
- Efforts were made to extend the membership of the Forum to provide for wider representation. The Australian Council of State School Organisations (ACSSO) was invited to join, and accepted that invitation, and the Federation of Ethnic Community Councils applied for membership in late June. That application is to receive attention at the next Forum Meeting in September 1980.

The potential for the work of the Forum is considerable, if it is given support by its member organisations, the non-government area generally, and the Federal Government. All groups concerned continue to be committed to the principle of the body being a Forum, and not a new supranational body.

Contact and good relations with a considerable number of other organisations, both in Australia and overseas, continued during 1979-80.

Two major bodies have been established to promote and coordinate activities for the International Year of Disabled Persons, to be held during 1981:

1. An IYDP unit located in the Department of Social Security. This unit has been given responsibility, by the Prime Minister, to coordinate Government activities for IYDP.

2. A National Committee of Non-Government Organisations, established by the Minister for Social Security, in conjunction with the Australian Council for Rehabilitation of Disabled. The Minister has provided funds for secretarial staff and for bringing the Committee together to meet and discuss promotion of IYDP in the non-Government Sector.

These two major bodies also consult with the National Advisory Council on the Handicapped and the Standing Interdepartmental Committee on Rehabilitation.

At State level, IYDP Committees representing both Government Departments and non-Government organisations have been established by the Minister responsible for IYDP in each State/Territory, viz:

- N.S.W. - Department of Youth and Community Services
- VIC. - Department of Health
- QLD. - Department of Welfare
- S.A. - Attorney General's Department
- W.A. - Department of Health
- TAS. - Department of Handicapped Persons Services
- A.C.T. - Department of Capital Territory
- N.T. - Department of Community Development

In addition, \$500,000 has been made available through the Department of Social Security for the construction of a national headquarters for ACROD, in Canberra. This building is scheduled for completion by April 1981. An amount of \$400,000 has been allocated from the Children's Services Budget for grants for projects and activities during the "Year".

The APA Executive has proposed that Branches discuss a nation-wide APA project to be conducted during IYDP, and this matter will be discussed at the 1980 Council Meeting.

POLICY:

At the October 1979 Meeting of APA Executive, it was agreed that Branches should be notified and responses sought regarding numerous gaps that appear in the current APA Policy Statement on Children's Services. Examples given of topics on which APA Policy should be developed included:

- Children and Television
- Other forms of Children's Services other than Day Care
e.g. Playgroups, neighbourhood centres, Toy Libraries,
Kindergartens/Pre-Schools
- Abortion
- Adoption
- Single Parent Families
- Child Safety
- Children at Risk/Child Abuse
- Residential Care
- International/Foreign Aid for Children in Developing Countries
- Legislation/Advocacy for Children
- Family and other Allowances
- Pollution

Responses received indicated general agreement that the Association should develop policies on these and other topics. One Branch suggested the appropriate APA Standing Committees should develop draft policies, and another that APA should first obtain Policy Statements from organisations with special interests in the areas mentioned, and adapt them as necessary, to relate to APA aims and objects.

The need for an APA policy on Commercial (Private) Child Care was also raised at that meeting. Discussion papers and relevant articles were forwarded to Branches. Following receipt of Branch responses to these documents and further discussion at the July APA Executive Meeting, a proposal for a Policy on Commercial (Private) Child Care Centres was developed. This proposal and the need for additional policies will be discussed at the Professional Officers Meeting 24 August 1980. Recommendations from that meeting will be presented to the 1980 Council Meeting.

Acting on the Terms of Reference for the Early Childhood Services and Training Committee (SA Branch), that Committee (in conjunction with the Kindergarten Union of South Australia) has been examining the APA Standards set out in the "Children's Services" Booklet. Branches and others have been invited to comment on standards for Children's Services, in preparation for a major revision of the Booklet.

PUBLICATIONS AND PRINTING:

The Publications Committee continued to operate smoothly in 1979-80, and a detailed report by Sub-Committee Conveners, correlated by the Committee's Chairman, Mrs Anne Murray, may be found in Section 2.

The Resource Information Service continued to provide a much needed service to the early childhood field in 1979, and all subscription targets for that year were either met or surpassed. Details of subscriptions may be found in the Publications Committee Report referred to above. It is important to note that many of those subscribers are member/observer organisations of APA, and are "umbrella" bodies themselves. As such, they pass on RIS information through their own distribution networks.

A proposal for the expansion of the RIS, the development of an Early Childhood Data Base, within the AUSINET system, and the purchase of a mini computer for APA national office, has been discussed at each National Executive Meeting during the Report period. At its July 1980 Meeting, the Executive agreed that the proposal should be forwarded to appropriate Trusts in an effort to obtain funding.

A schematic diagram of the proposed information system is outlined in Appendix M.

PUBLIC RELATIONS, PUBLICITY AND THE MEDIA:

The Federal Early Childhood Development Advisory Committee of the ABC accepted APA's nomination for membership of Joan Langham, Education Director, APA. However, during the past 14 months, the Committee has not met. The APA has responded to requests from the ABC for assistance in publicising and providing feedback on programs related to "Play School" and the "Family Life Series", and in advising the early childhood field of ABC publications.

Several APA Media Statements were issued during 1979/80:

- Untitled (Six Years after the Fry Report) (AJEC) (27.6.79)
- "Federal Budget Better for Children" (24.8.79)
- "Arts in Early Childhood Scholarship" (16.10/79)
- "Obituary - Christine Heinig Ph.D. M.A." (31.10.79)
- "Parents and Early Development" (AJEC) (24.3.80)
- "TV Advertising/PKU ... Genetic Disease .../Music Education" (AJEC) (13.6.80)

To date APA has no policy related to Children's Television. This topic has been included in the proposed additional Policy Statement and will be discussed at the 1980 Council Meeting. Following the 1979 Council Meeting the APA forwarded a letter to the Broadcasting Tribunal congratulating the Tribunal on recent action in regard to Children's Television (C5/79-23).

RESEARCH/TRAINING:

The recommendation from the meeting of LGCC Directors and representatives of Research and Evaluation Sub-Committees and the APA, 1-2 December 1979, approved by LGCC Management Committees and the APA Executive, viz:

- That "The Office of Child Care be asked to actively promote research into the education and care of children under four in Australia. The research would have components looking at -
- (a) the interests, needs and characteristics of parents and children
 - (b) specific procedures and practices in care and education, and
 - (c) outcomes, for both parents and children in the short term and subsequently (at least until the child completes one year of schooling).

The Office of Child Care has also been invited to prepare a brief statement on Federal Government Action on Early Childhood Research for distribution at the 1980 Council Meeting.

As an IYC project, the Centre for Child Study of the University of NSW, prepared a Directory of Child Research 1979, and this has been publicised in the APA "E.C. Newsletter".

Three research organisations were established early in 1980, following earlier decisions by the Federal Government. Each is likely to become involved in some way in the area of early childhood. The bodies are:

Social Welfare Research Centre - University of NSW (Sydney)
Institute of Family Studies (Melbourne)
Institute of Multicultural Affairs (Melbourne)

Each body has been invited to send an observer to the 1980 APA Council Meeting. A Resource Information Bulletin (No. 1/80 - 21.3.80) was prepared by the APA Resource Information Service, giving some background on each organisation and its Terms of Reference. A list of "research priorities" in the early childhood field is being prepared by APA for consideration by the Social Welfare Research Centre, at the invitation of its Director.

The 1978 Resource Information Bulletin "Australian Training Courses Related to the Field of Early Childhood" was updated in December 1979. In response to the courses listed, APA has received a request to examine the definition of ECE in relation to the age groups covered in such courses.

Early Childhood Teachers Colleges - Proposals for Amalgamation with other Colleges. At the 1979 Annual Council Meeting it was resolved:

"That the APA write to the Higher Education Board in NSW to strongly support the retention of the autonomous specialist Early Childhood Colleges".

This matter was dealt with by national office, however, negotiations have been taking place for the integration of the two specialist Early Childhood Colleges in NSW, viz, Nursery School Teachers College and Sydney Kindergarten Teachers College.

The APA Executive, in response to a request from the Early Childhood Committee, Canberra College of Advanced Education, provided that Committee with a statement supporting the retention of EC specialist courses preparing staff to work with children below the age of formal school entry, and requesting that these courses not be absorbed into General Infant/Primary Teacher Training Courses.

Following a resolution (C5/79-25) of the 1979 Council Meeting, the APA wrote to the Secretary of the Tertiary Education Commission (of Tasmania) supporting the retention of ECE Courses at the Mt. Nelson Campus of the Tasmanian College of Advanced Education. The letter was acknowledged but no further information has been received.

National Inquiry into Teacher Education. The Report from this Inquiry is in the final stages of preparation and should be available late 1980.

In August 1979, a preliminary meeting was held to discuss an ACOSS proposal to establish a body to look at training needs in the "Human Services Industry". An APA Vice-President, Mrs Barbara McNulty, has represented APA at meetings of the investigating body, and details of the proposal were forwarded to Branches for comment. This discussion also became linked with a Federal Government Report "Education and Training for Social Welfare Personnel in Australia" (Learner Report) which proposed the establishment of an Australian Council for Education and Training in Social Welfare.

By 30 June 1980, organisations involved were being asked to make a definite commitment to the proposal, both in terms of support, and financially. It was expected that major grants could be obtained from the Department of Employment and Youth Affairs. The APA Executive agreed that this matter would need to be discussed in detail by the 1980 Council Meeting before any commitments could be made by the Association.

SCHOLARSHIPS:

The Association made one nomination for the Australian/American Education Foundation Award 1979. However, the nomination was not successful.

The Frances Derham Scholarship for the Arts in Early Childhood Education has been awarded to Mrs Susan Wright. Mrs Wright holds a Bachelor of Education (Dickson State College, USA), a Bachelor of Education (Music) and a Master of Education (Music) from the University of Alberta, Canada, and is currently completing a Ph.D. at University of Newcastle, NSW. Thanks are expressed to the Victorian Branch, particularly the Frances Derham Scholarship Committee and Mrs Derham for their work in relation to the Scholarship and selection of the Scholar.

The Alice Creswick Scholarship Fund reached the nominated \$5,000 during 1979 and the Scholarship was advertised. A substantial number of applications were received. The APA Scholarship Committee has requested the assistance of relevant Branches to interview a number of applicants. It is expected that final selection will be made in September 1980.

CONCLUSION:

There continues to be a need for a strong, community based national organisation in the early childhood field in Australia. This Report, hopefully, indicates the very broad range of matters in which a National body needs to be involved. It will also be apparent that the national Association is losing ground in its ability to take appropriate action, because of diminishing resources.

The support of the reader, in assisting the Association to overcome those difficulties, is earnestly and urgently sought.

APA NATIONAL STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS 1979-80DEVELOPMENTAL NEEDS OF CHILDREN COMMITTEE (Queensland)

The formation and Terms of Reference for this Committee are yet to be finalised. Please refer to Section 1 of this report "Committees".

EARLY CHILDHOOD SERVICES AND TRAINING COMMITTEE (South Australia)

The Early Childhood Services and Training Committee was established as a National Committee of APA in late 1979 and had its inaugural meeting in April 1980. The Committee is comprised of representatives of the major agencies and departments concerned with young children (Kindergarten Union, Education Department, Mothers and Babies Health Association, Health Commission, Childhood Services Council and Hartley C.A.E., as well as APA) and is being convened by Mr Barry Burdon. Two departments (Community Welfare and Further Education) declined membership.

The inaugural meeting discussed terms of reference and the priorities which had been established for the Committee by the APA State Branch working party. Those priorities are as follows:

(Refer National Committee Structure Booklet for Terms of Reference)

(a) Immediate Priority

On formation of the Committee
Numbers 1 and 2.

(b) First Priority for Action

Review, revise, update Children's Services booklet.
Numbers 7, 4 and 10.

(c) Most Significant and Extensive

Monitoring availability of services and training.
Numbers 8, 9 and 11.

(d) Ongoing and Continuing

Review policy, information exchange and publications.
Numbers 3, 5, 6 and 12.

Dr F. Ebbeck offered that the Kindergarten Union of SA would undertake the task of reviewing, revising and updating the APA "Children's Services" Booklet; this offer was accepted. The Committee then decided that its initial priority should be the training (pre-service and in-service) of day care personnel and the question of required training and staffing ratios in day care centres. An area for future consideration would be the provision of services for handicapped children.

Representatives of the Committee met with Miss Joan Langham during her visit to Adelaide in May 1980.

Barry Burdon
Convener

FINANCE COMMITTEE (A.C.T.)

The Finance Committee met monthly throughout the period under review, and often twice monthly when discussing Budget priorities and office accommodation. An audited report for the year 1 July 1978-30 June 1979 has been distributed to Branches and an unaudited statement for the year 1 July 1979-30 June 1980 will be available for the Council Meeting.

The Committee was pleased to welcome two new members to the Committee during the year - Mrs Rosemary Brown and Mrs Janet Brooks.

ORGANISATION MONDIALE POUR L'EDUCATION PRESCOLAIRE (OMEP) (Victoria)

Members of the OMEP Committee, and Liaison Officers, are shown at the beginning of this Report.

There have been a number of changes in the personnel of the OMEP Committees in all States since the inception in 1961 of a special OMEP Committee (now a Standing Committee) to carry out voluntarily the work connected with the International Organisation. In December 1979, it was our sadness to lose Mrs Sylvia Goodman, who had served OMEP since its inception. Her loyalty and generosity, as well as her friendship is a loss to the whole organisation of APA, and she will be long remembered and missed.

Vienna Meetings 1979:

During the business of the OMEP Meetings in Melbourne in 1978, it was planned that the next Meetings were to be held in Vienna, Austria. As various problems of administration within OMEP continued, an Extra-ordinary General Assembly was also called to take place at that time. Delegates from 19 countries attended and two countries were represented by proxy. As a result of a Secret Ballot, Miss Margaret Roberts, M.Ed., well known here in Australia, was elected as the Interim World President.

Dr G. Korntheuer, Chairman of the Austrian OMEP Committee, and Principal of the Teacher Training College in Vienna, warmly welcomed the delegates and she and her Committee did all in their power during that wonderful week to see to our comfort, and entertainment between Meetings.

With the assistance of a large voluntary donation, the accumulated interest in the OMEP Travel Fund, and a contribution from the OMEP General Fund, the Convener was able to attend the Meetings in dual capacity of Australian delegate, and Vice-President for the Pacific-Far-East Region. I am deeply grateful for the privilege of representing the Australian Pre-School Association as the Australian National Committee of OMEP, at these Meetings. I hope that the contribution made by me assisted to uphold the ideals and continuance of OMEP.

In addition, Miss Rosamonde Combes, on leave from the IECD in Melbourne attended the Meetings, as Deputy Delegate. It was of great interest to her to see what had taken place since 1950 when she had the opportunity of attending the very first Vienna Assembly. At that time the City was still devastated from the bombings of World War II. Since those early years, Miss Combes has worked enthusiastically to further the objects of OMEP.

Quebec Assembly:

The Canadian OMEP Committee has been planning for 3 years, a World Assembly to be held in Quebec City, from 28 July-2 August. The Theme - "The Young Child - A Full-Fledged Citizen?"

It is expected that there will be 8 Australians present at the Assembly. They include - Miss Correa Atkinson, Tasmania; Dr and Mrs Ebbeck, Miss E. Mellor, Mrs M. Trembath, Miss P. Wark and Mrs D. Doceff from South Australia; and Mrs A.F. Farrance and Mrs E. Pullin from Victoria.

We wish them all a successful, safe, and useful experience.

Finance:

Since the 1978 Seminar, expenses of running the OMEP Committee's affairs have exceeded the income from donations. Neither has the Travel Fund been enlarged.

If we intend to pursue our adopted policy of sending a representative from Australia to World Council Meetings annually, then this Fund will have to be greatly and very rapidly enlarged. Another way would be for the APA to seek the assistance of the Government by including a regular charge in the application for Grant-in-Aid to enable Australia to take its seat regularly at the International table.

Australian Subscriptions to the International Journal of Early Childhood - 78.

UNESCO Toy Project:

Sincere thanks are due to all those in Queensland and Victoria who in a number of ways provided inspired and original items for the UNESCO Toy Project, enabling Australia to be in evidence.

UNESCO Research Enquiry:

Thanks also are due to Dr J. Keeves, Director of the Australian Council for Educational Research for providing information about Research programs being undertaken in Australia.

OMEP Newsletter:

Twelve issues of the Newsletter have been lodged with the National Library in Canberra, and we have applied for an Australia Card Index Number to be allocated. We trust that the specialised information contained annually in the brochure will provide a satisfactory historical record of the work achieved.

Thanks:

My sincere thanks again go to each of the members of my Standing Committee, to Mr Alan Holmes who as Executive Director is our contact link with national office, and whose interest and assistance at all times have been deeply appreciated. Also Mrs Joan Deans who keeps our accounts so beautifully. Lastly to Mrs Gillian Beddington who continues to be a tower of strength to OMEP through her liaison work with UNESCO.

Ellie V. Pullin M.B.E.
Convener

PUBLICATIONS STANDING COMMITTEE (A.C.T.)

Introduction/Background:

The publications program has been maintained since the last Meeting of Council in May 1979.

Ongoing programs which include the Australian Journal of Early Childhood, and the Early Childhood Resource Booklets, have made a significant contribution to the Association's service for its professional and community clientele.

Initiatives have been taken to promote the publications program and increase distribution by the appointment of a Publications Officer for a trial period of six months. The News Sheet translation program is seen as a major development in fostering and encouraging multicultural awareness while at the time providing support to ethnic families and their young children.

1979 Council members will recall a resolution accepted at the Meeting to increase the price of Parents News Sheets as a measure to increase the Association's revenue in general. This resulted in a new format for the News Sheets, and a change of name to "Today's Child" Leaflets. (Further details of this change are noted in the Sub-Committee's Report).

Although there was an initial fall-off in orders after the price increase, new or increased orders from other subscribers have returned total subscriptions to approximately the same level as before the increase. The income was about the same as in 1978/79, as a result, but this should improve in 1979/80. Net income from publications generally was lower than the previous year, when several new titles were published. Several new titles will be on sale in 1980/81.

While the Association should not, and cannot, regard publishing as a major financial enterprise, it is nevertheless important that Branches, Council and Executive members recognise the valuable contribution which publications can have on the financial viability of the Association. It is crucial that the program proceeds in a positive buoyant way.

The Sub-Committee Reports define the various components of the publications program. These are as follows:

Australian Journal of Early Childhood - Editor : Miss Margaret Clyde

The 1979-80 period has been a stabilising year for AJEC; we reached 2,600 subscriptions by December 1979 and have in excess of seventeen hundred subscriptions in the first five months of 1980. In terms of finance, we operated on a small deficit of \$579 in a budget of nearly \$22,000. This was covered partially by accumulated funds from previous years, and partially by value of Journals held in stock. However, the Committee is acutely mindful of the need to at least break even and preferably to operate at a surplus. To this end we have concentrated on increasing subscriptions through our bulk subscription offer, sought complimentary advertising in associated professional journals, written to many potential advertisers and actively encouraged many persons to write material for us who are engaged in research in various areas of early childhood.

Four editions of AJEC were published in the period encompassed by this report; two "themeless" editions and two with themes. The latter were provided by a group from the Queensland Branch of APA, and a Canberra group consisting

mainly of AJEC Committee members, respectively. The "New Zealand" connection has been firmly established, with regular articles and From the Field reports from across the Tasman. In addition we have accepted for publication articles from Thai and Indian writers in the past twelve months, so it can be said that we are assuming something of a Pacific Region flavour. Such a concept may require serious thought in the years to come.

While the 1979/80 period saw the welcome addition of new faces to our Committee and the hopeful stabilising of this group, it also saw the resignation of Dr Houston, our founding Editor. He has generously allowed us to retain his name on the Journal credit page so that the Journal's original driving force is not lost for future readers.

The "Driver's Manual" is complete apart from the inclusion of APA's policy on copyright. It is hoped that this Handbook will make the operation of the Journal much clearer to guest editors, potential advertisers, new committee members and the like. The Journal has diversified slightly in the past twelve months in that the section devoted to Research Abstracts has assumed a more permanent place and a series of film reviews has augmented the section previously devoted solely to Book Reviews.

AJEC's fame is spreading. The Education Resource Information Centre of the U.S. (E.R.I.C.) print-outs regularly feature details of AJEC articles while the Assistant Editor receives frequent requests for permission to reprint articles included in the Journal.

It would seem that AJEC is a viable operation in its present form but that attention must be given over the next year or two to increasing and consolidating its subscription list in a period when rapidly escalating expenditure in terms of wages and printing costs make the formulation of a budget extremely difficult; the New Zealand subscriptions and the slowly but steadily increasing overseas subscriber lists may require some concentration upon as well as the bulk subscription section in Australia itself. Above all we are very aware of the need to maintain the quality of our papers and articles in order to retain the existing readership.

APA Publications

Review Sub-Committee - Liaison Committee Member : Ms Elizabeth Knight

This Sub-Committee is located in Brisbane and by June 1980 it consisted of six members. Pat Roberts is Convener of this Committee whilst Elizabeth Knight is the liaison person in Canberra.

As so many APA publications are quite recent, the Sub-Committee was not called upon to review very much material during the year but has consolidated itself and is keen to take on tasks both initiated from Canberra and by itself. When APA publications need reprinting, the Sub-Committee will review them and make recommendations for additions, alterations, etc.

Earlier in the year, it was suggested that Sub-Committees like this Queensland one could feel more involved and better informed about the work of the Publications Committee if the Minutes of the Meetings of this Committee were distributed to all Sub-Committees. This is now happening and is appreciated by the Queensland Sub-Committee.

Members of the Publications Review Sub-Committee are listed at the beginning of the Annual Report.

Early Childhood Resource Booklets - Convener : Mrs Jan Pryor

We are now in the middle of our third year and experiencing increased subscriptions (873 as at 30 June) and the need to reprint several popular titles.

I took over as Convener from Dr S. Plummer at the beginning of 1980 and we have two new members on the Committee, Meena Koerner and Marg Kevin. We have established a pattern of five Booklets a year with each member of the Committee acting as the liaison person for one Booklet. A firm procedure guide has been worked out and this has helped in making everyone aware of where we are at any given time.

Booklets for 1980 have been No. 1 "The Playground - An Outdoor Environment"; No. 2 "Movement Education for Young Children"; No. 3 "Parents and Teachers Together for Children"; No. 4 "Teaching Speech to your Language Delayed Child" (in the pipeline); No. 5 a contribution from Jackie Holman.

For 1981, we hope to cover the following topics: Learning to Read : Parents Can Help, by Jenny Simons; Social, Educational and Emotional Needs of Young Children, by Sandi Plummer; Telling and Reading Stories and Poetry with Children, by June Factor; Child Abuse, by Ian Lewis; and a composite Booklet on disabled children as our contribution to I.Y.D.P.

We intend to include a questionnaire in our next issue asking for suggestions for topics not yet covered. We want to plan 1982 but more importantly, we need back up articles to keep our deadline a little more comfortable.

Finance, Legal, Administration, Policy and Publicity (FLAPP)

This Sub-Committee's responsibilities have been undertaken by individuals and there have been two main developments. Discussions have been held with a solicitor to obtain legal advice on the Association's position in regard to copyright, and this matter was being finalised at the time of writing this Report. A publications promotion project was accepted at the March 1980 Meeting of the Executive, and a separate report is included below.

Multicultural Project Report - Project Officer : Mrs Jacqueline Hartley

Translation of six parent information leaflets

The submission for funding for this project was presented to the Office of Child Care on 31 July 1979. Although an initial indication was given in December 1979 that a grant would be approved, further correspondence and clarification of the project's operation and costs, delayed commencement until March 1980. A total of \$15,143 has been approved, including \$300 to produce some early childhood resource notes.

A small, voluntary advisory group has chosen six topics from a short list of Parents News Sheet titles and has rewritten these topics in a briefer and simpler version than the originals, trying to keep them to a maximum of 500 words each.

The topics chosen for translation are:

- "Messy Play"
- "Where Will I Leave My Child When I Work?"
- "Helping at Pre-School"
- "Safety in the Home"
- "Who Am I?"
- "Your Child's Diet"

The Group is made up of people from Australian, Austrian, New Zealand and Swedish backgrounds, with knowledge of a range of languages and with personal experience in the early childhood field.

The format of the finished leaflets, will be similar to "Today's Child" leaflets, with two-colour cover and black and white photographs and will have the English version printed on the back of the leaflet.

The languages into which the leaflets are to be translated are: Greek, Italian, Spanish, Turkish, and Serbo-Croatian.

The rough drafts of the English versions have been sent to various people and organisations for comment and when their suggestions have been incorporated in the texts, the leaflets will be translated and printed.

Overseas Publications - Convener : Ms Sue Rasic

The sale of selected early childhood publications by APA has been in operation for approximately 15 months, and response has been good, with a total of \$2,388 in gross sales. Several of the more popular titles have been reordered at least once during that period.

During the next twelve months, an assessment will be made of the titles available, and unpopular ones will be dropped to make way for new selections. One problem with the program has been the delay in obtaining supplies. The suppliers have been written to about this matter, to ask their assistance in handling and shipping APA orders more promptly.

The response to this new aspect of the APA publications program has indicated that it has helped to meet a need in the Australian Early Childhood field, and should be able to be extended as soon as supply problems are overcome.

Parents News Sheets - Today's Child Leaflets - Convener : Ms Jacqueline Hackett

Following an APA Council Resolution to raise the price of the Parents News Sheets in May 1979, it was felt that this would be an opportune time to change both the format and the name of the Parents News Sheets. A list of recommendations were presented to and accepted by the Publications Committee and Finance Committee.

These were:

- (1) That the name be changed to "Today's Child"
- (2) The printer changed from Melbourne to Canberra, based on quotations received
- (3) The price of the News Sheets from September 1979 to be 8 cents for bulk copies (ten or more), 10 cents - single copies
- (4) Format changed - larger, single fold leaflet incorporating two colours and using photographs, though not to replace illustrations entirely
- (5) That a publicity promotion be conducted to promote the leaflets and to increase subscribers

Following the acceptance of the recommendations the Committee worked towards the first two "Today's Child" Leaflets, printed in September 1979. These were "Stuttering" and "Sexism". Since then Leaflets printed and distributed have included two on the Handicapped Child; Sharing the Care; Playgroups; a pair on Multicultural Understanding; Family Food Fun; and Play.

Scripts are well organised for the remainder of the year with a number of surplus scripts on hand to be used in 1981.

Publications Assessment (South Australia) - Liaison : Miss Joan Langham

There was a need to clarify the Terms of Reference of this Sub-Committee, and the responsibilities it was being asked to undertake by the Publications Committee. This also meant clarifying the situation in regard to the APA Publications Review Sub-Committee, situated in Queensland.

In brief:

- The Assessment Sub-Committee has been asked to examine the general field of early childhood, identify where there are "gaps" and make recommendations to the Publications Committee as to the sort of books, or other material, that should be "commissioned"
- The APA Publications Review Sub-Committee will be reviewing current APA publications, and making recommendations as to whether they should be reprinted, any changes or additions that might be made, etc. The Publications Committee would then take up these suggestions with the author(s) prior to ordering a reprint

The SA Assessment Sub-Committee is using two approaches to its task. It is examining publications now available, and identifying gaps, and it has prepared and is distributing a questionnaire to APA member organisations, training institutions etc., asking advice on areas of need. From its initial investigations, the Sub-Committee has noted that there is a gap in moderately-priced publications about the growth and development of children aged six to twelve years. Surprisingly little appears to be available "with Australian norms of development or an Australian emphasis in behaviour expectations".

Any person reading this Report who has any information that may be of interest to this Sub-Committee is invited to send it to the Secretary of the South Australian Branch, APA, 23 Statenborough Street, Leabrook, S.A. 5068.

Further details of the Sub-Committee's findings will be made available to Branches, and published in information distributed through the APA Resource Information Service.

Publications Officer Report - Kaye Campbell

Since 20 May 1980, when the Publicity Promotions Pilot Project commenced, bundles of leaflets and brochures have been distributed to 2,141 different people through some 25 different organisations ranging from ACT and NSW pre-schools to manufacturers of children's toys and to 972 delegates attending ten different conferences, in Australia and overseas.

As well, a "test" advertisement in the Brisbane "Courier Mail" of 19 July has brought 66 requests for additional information, which to date has resulted in purchases of 20 copies of back issues of "Today's Child" Leaflets, 3 subscriptions to "Today's Child" Leaflets, 3 subscriptions to AJEC, 1 subscription to the Resource Booklets and the Early Childhood Up-Date Service, and sundry publications.

On 31 July, 324 past subscribers to the Journal were written to and invited to renew their subscriptions. Even at this early stage, the response is encouraging with 10 new subscriptions and other APA publications purchased.

In addition, I have handled 38 separate correspondents' requests for information, in the last 2½ months.

Overall the response has been purchases of:

10,781 back copies of "Today's Child" Leaflets @ 8¢ per copy	\$ 862.48
70 subscriptions for "Today's Child" Leaflets @ \$2.50 each	175.00
29 Journal subscriptions @ \$8.00 each	232.00
65 Journal binders @ \$3.50 each	63.00
3 Resource Booklet subscriptions @ \$5.50	16.50
3 Early Childhood Up-Date Service subscriptions @ \$15.00 each	45.00
Sundry APA publications	69.15
TOTAL	\$1,463.13

It may be reported that, to date, the pilot project appears to be successful both in terms of financial return, and the wider distribution of APA material.

Research Publications - Convener : Dr Jacqueline Holman

Following the acceptance of the revised Terms of Reference for this Sub-Committee by the Publications Committee, a letter is being prepared for wide distribution to all APA member organisations, Branches and Lady Gowrie Child Centres. A key extract from the letter reads as follows:

"Briefly, the purpose of this Sub-Committee is to assist in the dissemination of current information related to early childhood, especially in those areas which appear to be neglected. The full terms of reference are enclosed for your perusal and we would encourage your organisation to assist our review of current research by informing researchers of our existence and promoting the submission of valuable manuscripts to our Committee".

Further meetings of this Sub-Committee will be convened when responses obtained to this letter of advice about the Sub-Committee's proposed activity.

Resource Information Service - Project Officers : Anne Greenwood (to Dec. 79)
Narelle Milligan (from March 1980)

The Resource Information Service continued to operate on a subscription basis in 1979-80, and subscriptions at 31 December 1979 and 30 June 1980 are shown below.

The RIS offers four "options" as follows:

1. Australian Journal of Early Childhood
2. Parents News Sheets now "Today's Child" Leaflets
3. Early Childhood Resource Booklets
4. EC Up-Date Service

The first three options have been reported upon earlier. The "EC Up-Date Service" has regularly produced the "EC Newsletter", Hansard Extracts, Selected Press Clippings, Resource Information Bulletins, and "Early Childhood Publications in Australia" and "Early Childhood Films in Australia" Booklets. Subjects covered by the Resource Information Bulletins have included "Training Courses related to Early Childhood in Australia", "Multicultural Backgrounds - Sources Available", "Using National Library Facilities Anywhere in Australia".

The financial assistance of the Bushell Trust, during 1979 and 1980, is acknowledged with sincere appreciation.

A proposal to develop the Resource Information Service and establish an Early Childhood Data Base has been noted in the general APA report, and a schematic outline has been included as Appendix M.

Subscriptions at 30 June 1980:

Total subscriptions - 1061 (1979 total - 1024)

Totals of Selected Options:

1 (AJEC) see above

2 - 778 (1979 total - 741)

3 - 873 (1979 total - 803)

4 - 442 (1979 total - 508)

Conclusion:

It is difficult to coordinate the work of the Publications Committee when geographic isolation is involved.

However, I believe that the involvement of sub-committees in the States will always have an influence in ensuring a cohesive and cooperative national perspective.

My thanks are extended to all members of the Standing Committee, and to all members of sub-committees for their generous assistance and work.

The Executive and Education Directors continue to encourage the Publications Committee with their optimism and vision. The Secretary and all members of national office staff carry out their tasks in the publications field with enthusiasm and interest.

I have pleasure in presenting our Annual Report.

Anne Murray
Chairman

RESEARCH, EVALUATION AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE (Victoria)

The Committee acts in an advisory capacity to the Australian Pre-School Association Inc. on matters related to research and evaluation in the early childhood field. When requested by the APA the Committee meets to consider research/evaluation concerns of the APA and the LGCCs.

The Committee has met on a number of occasions, the latest meeting being held 20 June 1980.

The meeting of 20 June 1980 was called to deal with the APA request that:

1. The Committee nominate a Chairman to be appointed by the APA Council
2. The Committee priority order topics referred to it from the APA Executive Meeting, 30 March-2 April 1980, and any other research topics that the Committee considered required attention in the early childhood field

In addition to these meetings, the Acting Chairman of the R.E. and D. Committee, Dr Trevor Williams, participated in the meeting of the LGCC Directors, representatives of Research and Evaluation Sub-Committees, the APA and the Office of Child Care, 1-2 December 1980. Dr Williams will attend a similar meeting 13-14 September 1980.

The Committee was requested, 21 May 1980, by the Education Director, APA to act in an advisory capacity to the APA Publications Sub-Committee (SA Branch) should that Sub-Committee request assistance in drawing up a questionnaire to be used in assessing the areas of deficiency in publications available in the early childhood field.

SCHOLARSHIPS (A.C.T.)

The Scholarship Committee meets when there is business at hand or to plan advertising for scholarship promotions. The members met several times to discuss the Frances Derham Scholarship and then responded to a request to meet with the Victorian Branch Committee.

Most of the time at the meetings is taken up with testing criteria and policy with the applications. The Committee appreciates very direct guidelines with any scholarship awards and works towards these standards. Awards this year which we have considered are:

- (1) The Frances Derham Scholarship
- (2) The Australian/American Education Foundation Award Nomination
- (3) The Alice Creswick Scholarship which was advertised in March 1980. Further details are provided in Section 1 of this Report. Although the majority of the \$5,000 to be awarded for this Scholarship comes from the proceeds of sales of specified APA publications, there were also a number of donations from APA Branches. The Committee wishes to acknowledge those donations with sincere appreciation.

Maria Byron
Convener

AUSTRALIAN PRE-SCHOOL ASSOCIATION INC.BRANCH MEMBERS, OBSERVERS, ASSOCIATES 1979/80A.C.T. BRANCH(ACT Association for Early Childhood Development)

ACT Association for Physically Handicapped Children
 ACT Pre-School Assistants Association
 ACT Pre-School Teachers Association
 Blind Society of the ACT (Inc.)
 ACT Junior Primary Association
 ACT Playgroups Resource Centre
 Canberra Mothercraft Society
 Canberra Pre-School Society
 Narrabundah Early Childhood Education Centre
 North Belconnen Community Child Care Centre
 Research Students Association Family Day Care
 St. Philips Kindergarten
 University Pre-School and Child Care Centre
 Weston Creek Playgroup Association
 ACT Playgroup Association

The Branch also has approximately 75 individual members.

N.S.W. BRANCHFoundation Members

Kindergarten Union of N.S.W.
 Lady Gowrie Child Centre
 Sydney Day Nursery & Nursery Schools Association

Members

Australian Association of Early Childhood Educators
 Association of Child Care Centres of NSW
 Board of Education - Diocese of Sydney
 Baptist Homes Trust, NSW
 Benevolent Society of NSW
 Child Care Certificate Association
 Country Pre-Schools Association, NSW
 Family Day Care Association of NSW
 Federation of School Community Organisations, NSW
 Future Lobby
 Infants Home - Ashfield
 Karitane Mothercraft Society
 Local Government of NSW
 Mitchell College of Advanced Education
 Montessori Association of NSW
 Nursery School Teachers' College
 Playgroup Association of NSW
 Pre-School Teachers' Association
 Royal Blind Society of NSW
 Save the Children Fund NSW Division
 Sydney Kindergarten Teachers' College
 Sydney Kindergarten Teachers' College Graduates Association
 Sydney Rescue Work Society
 Tresillian - The Royal Society for the Welfare of Mothers and Babies

NSW Branch Contd.

Observers

Department of Education
Department of Youth & Community Services
Office of Child Care
OMEP

Associate Members

Mrs B. Greenfield
Newcastle City Council
Council of Social Service
of NSW

NORTHERN TERRITORY BRANCH

Member Organisations

Pre-School Committees (approx. 20)
Pre-School Teachers' Association of N.T.
Play and Learn Group
Darwin Family Centres Inc.

QUEENSLAND BRANCH

Member Organisations

Creche and Kindergarten Association of Queensland Inc.
Kindercraft Association
Lady Gowrie Child Centre
Save the Children Fund
Playgroup Association of Qld.
Queensland Kindergarten Teachers' Association
Department of Education, Pre-School Division
Department of Children's Services
Department of Aboriginal and Islanders' Advancement
Brisbane Kindergarten Teachers' College
Queensland Professional Child Care Centres
Family Day Care Association

Life Members

Lady Thomson, O.B.E.
Dr Pamela Jackson
Mrs Margaret Sutherland
Miss Jean Ferguson
Dr John Bostock

Associate Members

Miss Peggy Banff
Mrs Isa Tate

Observers

Department of Health, Division of School Health Services

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN BRANCH

Member Organisations

Kindergarten Union of SA
Mothers and Babies' Health Association Inc.
Lady Gowrie Child Centre Inc.
Kingston College of Advanced Education Graduates' Association Inc.
Pre-School Teachers' Association
Education Department of South Australia
Playgroup Association of South Australia Inc.
Department of Further Education (Child Care Studies Course)
Australian Association of Early Childhood Educators
Association of Child Care Centres of South Australia Inc.

Associate Members

Miss H. Artlett
Mr B. Burdon
Miss S. Lillywhite, OMEP Liaison Officer to February 1980

TASMANIAN BRANCH

Member Organisations

Lady Gowrie Child Centre
Kindergarten Teachers Association of Tasmania
Kindergarten Union of Tasmania
Playgroup Association of Tasmania
Tasmanian Parent Council for Early Childhood Education
Nursery and Child Care Association
Hobart Technical College (C.C.C. Course)
Tasmanian College of Advanced Education
Department of Education - Division of Recreation
- Regional Infants Supervisors
- Regional Kindergarten Advisors
Department of Health Services
Department of Social Welfare - Childhood Services

Observers

Child Health Association of Tasmania
Mothercraft Course

Life Member

Mrs M. Firth

Associate Members

Mrs L. Grant
Mrs D. Mackey
Mrs R. Hopcroft
Professor I.C. Lewis
Micc C. Allingham

Mrs B. Bound
Ms S. Weatherburn
Mrs C. Westbrook
Mrs H. Verrall

VICTORIAN BRANCH

Member Organisations

Advisory Council for Children with Impaired Hearing
Association of Subsidised Day Care Centres
Australian Association of Early Childhood Educators - Victorian Chapter
Catholic Education Office
Church of England Kindergarten Council
Free Kindergarten Union of Victoria
Graduates Association, Institute of Early Childhood Development
Lady Gowrie Child Centre
Monash Child Guidance Centre
State College of Victoria, Institute of Early Childhood Development
Staff Association, Institute of Early Childhood Development
Uniting Church in Australia - Pre-School Kindergarten Section
University of Melbourne - Union Board of Directors
Victorian Association of Day Nurseries
Victorian Baptist Childrens' Work Committee
Victorian Municipal Pre-School Association
Victorian Playgroup Association
Victorian Pre-School Play Leaders Association
Yooralla Society of Victoria

Associate Members

Dr Isla Stamp
Dr Peter Langford
Mrs F. Palmer
Mrs R.N. Walford
Miss J. Forster
Mrs E.V. Pullin M.B.E.
Professor Ronald Goldman

Life Members

Mrs H. Goodman (deceased Dec. 79)
Miss E.M. Paul M.B.E.
Miss W.E. Griffiths M.B.E.
Miss J. Sutherland
Mrs Whitney King C.B.E.
Miss H. Lyon M.B.E.

Victorian Branch Contd.

By Invitation

Dr W. Rouch, Assistant Director - Public Health Division (Maternal and Child Health), Health Commission of Victoria
Miss B. Stubbs, Assistant Director - Public Health Division (Pre-School Child Development), Health Commission of Victoria
Miss B. Somerville, Department of Education, Victoria

W.A. BRANCH

Representative Members

Lady Gowrie Child Centre
OMEP (World Organisation for Early Childhood Education)
Association of Registered Day Care Centres
Aust. Association of Social Workers

Children's Activities Time Society
Child Care Graduates' Association
Community Kindergarten Association

Early Childhood Teachers' Association
Out of School Child Care Association

Playgrounds on Demand

Playgroup Association of WA

Pre-School Teachers and Associates Union

Royal Aust. Nursing Federation of WA
Save the Children Fund

State School Teachers' Union of WA

WA Local Government Association

Mrs J. Innes

Mrs J. Biddle
Mrs K. Lane
Miss L. Price (Rep.)
Mr T. Barrett (Deputy)
Mrs J. Pope (Rep.)
Mrs M. Mitchell
Mrs E. Lefroy (Rep.)
Mrs H. House (Dep.)

Mrs P. Ferrell (Rep.)
Mr P. Mann (Dep.)
Mrs J. Knight (Rep.)
Mrs A. Whittington (Dep.)
Ms C. Schyschow (Rep.)
Ms C. Lowdnes (Dep.)
Mrs A. Gregg (Rep.)
Ms R. Noack (Dep.)
Miss E. Wallent
Mrs E. Lefroy (Rep.)
Mrs M. Atkins (Dep.)
Mr C.G.H. Arblaster (Rep.)
Mr B.J. Clarke (Dep.)
Cr M. Green (Rep.)
Cr F. Grierson (Dep.)

Members

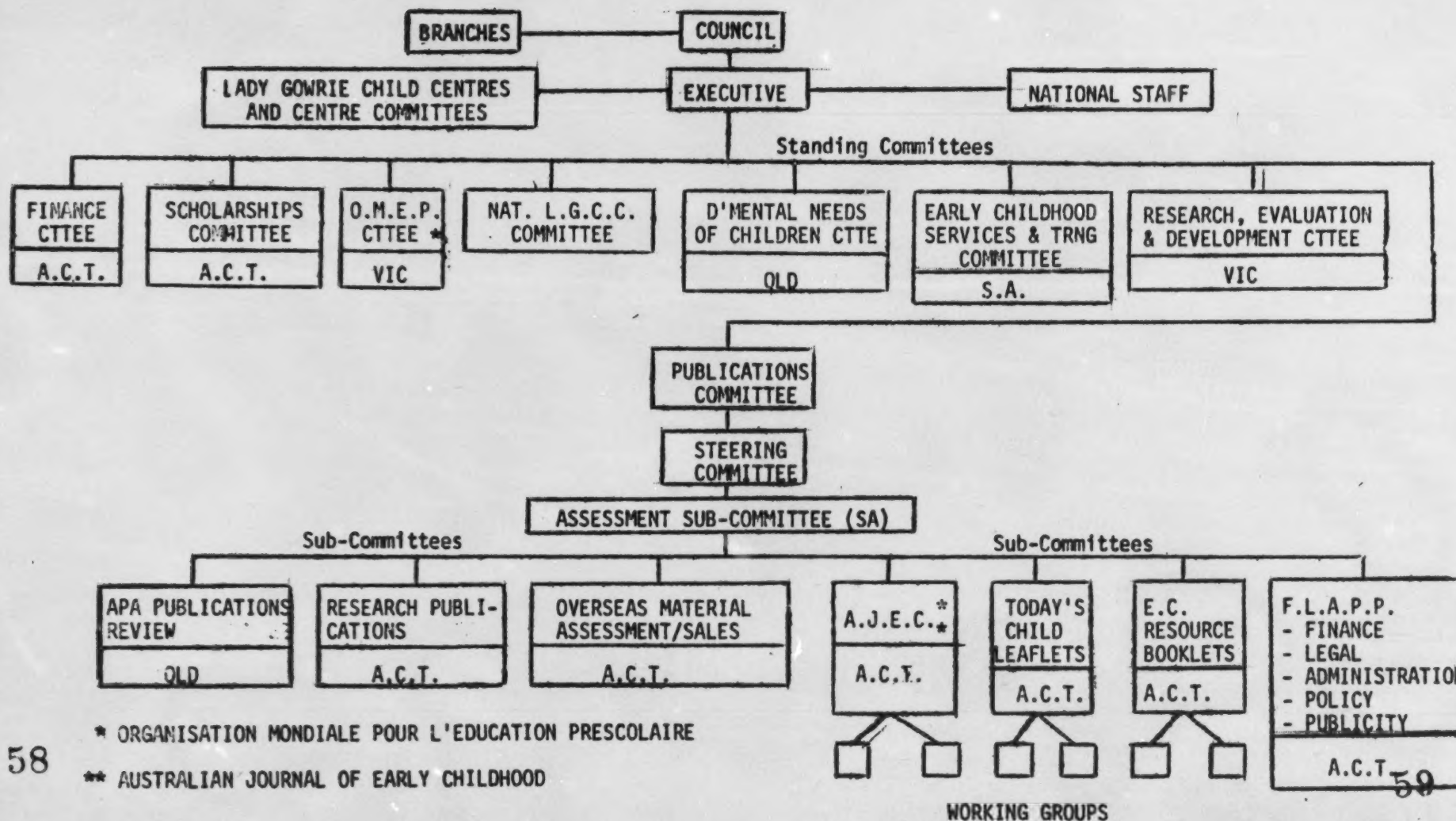
Mrs P. Keillor
Mr J. Stapleton
Mrs R. Lewi
Miss N. Brockman
Miss M. Bunday
Mrs M. Werner
Mrs A. McAearney
Mr T. Barrett
Mrs T. Ure
Miss L. Meenhorst
Ms J. Campbell
Mrs J. Hardy
Mrs H. Haines
Mrs D. Butterworth
Mrs M. Folk

Mrs J. Frenton
Mrs E. Ford
Mrs S. Scopa
Dr V. Hazlewood
Mrs M. McCubbin
Mrs C. Sandow

Associate Members

Twenty five (25)

A.P.A. NATIONAL COMMITTEE STRUCTURE



WORKING GROUPS

REPORT - 15TH NATIONAL CONFERENCE - 14-18 MAY 1979"Children - the Community's Concern"

The post-Conference reaction of the Committee and indeed the NSW Branch of APA was one of satisfaction. Despite our fears and innumerable traumas which included the arrival of our opening night speaker late without luggage and in a wheelchair - the result of a fall en route.

Dr Densen-Gerber and Professor Macoby as key speakers, set the tone of the Conference which was ably developed by all other speakers.

Over 600 delegates were registered and about another 800 attended individual sessions. The Wentworth Hotel proved a successful venue and contributed to the success of the Conference.

Representatives came from the U.S.A., New Zealand, and the South East Pacific Islands of Fiji and Samoa, as well as all States and Territories. We were particularly delighted to have a significant number of Aboriginal delegates who made their own particular contribution.

The support and grants made available by the State and Federal Governments were essential in developing the program and the organisation for the Conference, and were greatly appreciated.

Our thanks go also to our many sponsors whose generosity has allowed a considerable surplus to be forwarded to national office.

One area of continuing concern is the very late finalisation of the Conference Report. The Conference Committee offers its sincere apologies to all concerned for the delay which resulted from repeated problems beyond their control. Hopefully, the Report will be being distributed as these comments go to print.

Thanks go to the many, many people who participated in the Conference, whether as speakers, Chairmen, hostesses or helping in the publications and display section.

The Conference was planned and run in an atmosphere of cooperation and mutual respect and my particular thanks go to every member of the Conference Committee and their Sub-Committees on whose untiring efforts the success of the Conference rests.

Miss Hazel Flint, the Conference Secretary, worked unstintingly, and was the core of our endeavours. She won the respect and affection of all.

Lastly, it was our Conference President, Lady Fairfax, with her generosity, her perceptiveness, and her never failing humour, who set the key note of the 15th National Conference, where it was shown so clearly that children are indeed the community's concern.

Mrs Barbara McNulty
Chairman,
Conference Organising Committee

APA DEVELOPMENT PROPOSALS 1975Summary of Action

Note: This short report covers only those proposals originally prepared in 1975. Others have subsequently been introduced, or clarified, e.g. the future of the Lady Gowrie Child Centres was still under discussion in 1975, and new Terms of Reference were subsequently approved in 1977. The Centres then entered a three year implementation/development program. The APA multicultural program was proposed following requests from the WA Branch.

National Conference on Children's Services
Survey of Children's Services in Australia

Detailed submissions prepared and forwarded to Federal Government on 9 March 1976. A resubmission on the National Conference was made on 18 November 1976, at the invitation of the Minister for Social Security. Funds for the Survey were declined on 10 December 1976. (The National Data Base Workshop was established by Federal and State Governments in 1977). No final response was ever received on the National Conference Submission. However, a National Conference was sponsored by the Department of Social Security in March 1979 as part of IYC.

National Conference on Training Courses

Deferred in 1976, held in August 1977 as a "Special Meeting on Accreditation" in Adelaide. Sub-Committees formed in several States/Territories to investigate local situation. Collection of papers from the Meeting, plus additional information, published by APA in "Accreditation in Early Childhood Services", May 1979.

Name Change

Proposal deferred in 1976, pending Branch discussion; defeated in 1977; agreed by majority in 1978 that a change was necessary; two alternatives proposed for 1979 Council Meeting - neither obtained the two-thirds majority vote required for Constitutional change; name change proposed in 1980, and one name only submitted for Council consideration.

National Membership

Discussion papers prepared by national staff 1977/78 and discussed by Branches. Proposal discussed at 1979 Council Meeting, but agreed that national individual membership not be implemented.

Grants to Branches

Requests for additional funds, primarily for Branch delegates to attend Council Meetings, etc., made in 1976/77 Grant Submissions. As total amount approved considerably less than Grant requested, provision for Branch assistance could not be included in final Budget. This occurred again in 1977/78 and 1978/79.

In 1979, Senator Guilfoyle advised that as part of the "Federalism Policy" no assistance would be provided in future for State Branches of national organisations receiving Commonwealth assistance. Branches advised of this development by national office.

During this same period, most Branches sought financial assistance from their respective State/Territory Governments, and some limited assistance has been forthcoming. Two Branches (NSW and Tasmania) employ a part-time secretary to assist with Branch Minutes, correspondence etc.

Increase National Staff/Establish "Departments"

The 1975 development proposals suggested a total of 17 staff (7 Directors, 2 Assistant Directors, and 8 support staff) was needed in the national office. There were 2 Directors and 3 support staff at that time (support staff employed 2 x 30 hrs and 1 x 20 hrs).

Requests for additional funds for a Development Officer and support staff were included in the 1976/77 and 1977/78 submissions. Both were refused. (This was the beginning of the virtual "freezing" of Grants to national bodies by the Federal Government).

While it has been possible to increase staff through special project funding and from subscriptions, the "basic" staff of the national office has remained the same, although the positions which were part-time have now become full-time. Other staff have been added through the AJEC and RIS budgets. The total is now 6 full-time, and 4 part-time. A request was included in the 1980-81 submission for the LGCC Coordination Grant, for funds to employ a Research Assistant and a Junior Typist.

Even if the above submission was approved, bringing the total staff to 12, there would still be many areas for which there would be insufficient staff-time. The original estimate of 17 would appear, therefore, to still be a reasonable target at which to aim.

Review of National Committee Structure

Undertaken by ad-hoc Committee in Queensland. Report tabled and accepted 1976 Council Meeting. New National Committee Structure reviewed during 1978-79, and revised structure adopted 1979 Council Meeting. Implemented during 1979-80. (See National Committee Structure, Appendix B).

Development of the Early Childhood Publications Program

Publications Committee re-established in 1977 with new Terms of Reference. Terms of Reference also developed for Sub-Committees (see Appendix B). Considerable increase in publications program (8 titles available in 1975, increased to over 50 by 1980). As part of this development, a pilot project for a Resource Information Service was undertaken in 1976 and 1977, and the new Service established on a subscription basis in 1978 and 1979. Assistance received from Bushell Trust. Submissions made to the Federal Government in 1976 and again in 1978, for assistance in establishing this Service, were both refused.

Federal Government spending on the Children's Services Programme, showing pre-school/other service expenditures in \$ and % of overall expenditure

Year	Federal Budget Appropriation	Funds Actually expended in \$ and % of overall expenditure			
		Pre-School		Child Care	
19__	\$M	\$	%	\$	%
73-74	18.0	6.479	72.20	2.495	27.80
74-75	75.0	37.077	81.97	8.153	18.03
75-76	74.0*	47.029	73.52	16.941	26.48
76-77	73.3	49.018	73.07	18.068	26.93
77-78	73.3	45.994	64.60	25.203	35.40
78-79	65.08	32.750 ⁽¹⁾	51.30	31.086	48.70
79-80	69.22	33.090 ⁽²⁾	47.80	36.130 ⁽²⁾ ⁽³⁾	52.20

* revised to \$64M in January 1976.

1. State Governments also provide funds for pre-school services, estimated at approximately \$47m in 1978-79. With the \$32.75m provided by the Federal Government in the form of block grants, the total public expenditure on pre-school education in 1978-79 was approximately \$80m.
2. Includes new payment of \$0.58m to Northern Territory - \$0.34m for pre-school and \$0.24m for child care services.
3. Includes \$30,000 for Welfare Rights Officers.

Contents taken from DSS Expenditure on the Children's Services Program and APA Media Statement, August 1979.

Expenditure by State Governments on Pre-School Education 1968-70(a) and 1978/79.

\$.000

STATE	1968/69	1969/70	1978/79(est)
NSW	182	211	3326
VIC	2907	3148	20000
QLD	195	265	8805
SA	579	682	13500(1)
WA	290	331	1265
TAS(b)	231	232	(2)

- (a) Pre-School education is defined, for this purpose, to exclude day nurseries and child-minding centres, but to include play centres. Expenditure by local government authorities not included.
- (b) Does not include expenditure on the training of pre-school teachers at the Hobart Teachers College. The students follow a common course and the number entering pre-school education cannot be ascertained until they have completed their courses and take up positions. Tasmanian figures for 1968-69 and 1969-70 include expenditure on pension and superannuation allowances; for years prior to 1968-69 no information was available in relation to this item. The 1968-69 and 1969-70 figures are therefore not precisely comparable with those for earlier years previously supplied.
- (1) This figure represents the total amount spent by SA on its Childhood Services Programme, i.e. on pre-school education plus various other children's services.
- (2) Tasmania's expenditure on pre-school is submerged in a general figure for all levels of education.

FIGURES TAKEN FROM Hansard 20 August 1971. Question No. 2326. Estimates of state expenditure for 1978-79 were derived from State Budget Papers, which do not always classify expenditure on the same basis as Commonwealth Budget Papers. These figures should be taken as estimates only.

APA AND THE IYC

A short summary of activities undertaken by APA Branches, Lady Gowrie Child Centres, and the National Association during the International Year of the Child 1979.

National Projects: A Parents News Sheet No. 316, was published in November 1978, providing preliminary information on the "Year", and over 20,000 copies were distributed. The Association was invited to be represented on the National Committee of Non-Government Organisations, and the President, Lady Thomson, became Convener of the Sub-Committee on "The Child Under Threat". (See general APA Report). The "Australian Journal of Early Childhood" published a special edition in March, 1979 on "Research Activities in Australia".

Several experts in early childhood were invited to write articles for submission to the "Women's Weekly" magazine, and some Early Childhood Resource Booklets were also submitted. One of these, "An ABC of Children's Needs" was accepted and published in the October 17 edition of the magazine. A second article "Don't Call Him A Poor Little Thing" has been held over and is to be published as a forerunner to the International Year of Disabled Persons.

A Resource Information Bulletin (No. 1/79) was published in March 1979, by the APA Resource Information Service, giving details of Conferences, Seminars, etc. being conducted during IYC, and this list was updated throughout the year with additions being notified in the "E.C. Newsletter". Selected Press Clippings provided references to longer articles which were appearing in newspapers, related to child welfare, child development, parenting etc.

The OMEP Committee prepared a collection of colour slides with annotations about children's activities in OMEP member countries, for presentation to UNESCO.

Two APA Branches (NSW and Victoria) undertook projects on behalf of the National Association, and these are listed below. Further details of the projects listed will appear in the Branches Annual Reports.

The ACT Branch arranged a series of Babysitting Courses, which were very popular and well attended. The Branch also sold IYC T-shirts, bumper stickers, ran film shows and raffles, etc., to obtain funds for other Branch activities related to young children. A total of \$2,887 was raised from those efforts.

The NSW Branch was the host for the APA 15th National Triennial Conference which was one of the largest gatherings during the "Year", and proved to be a highly successful one. The theme "Children - The Community's Concern" was used to link the Conference with IYC. The Branch also prepared an attractive brochure with details of courses available in NSW for those wishing to work in early childhood services, and this was widely distributed.

The Queensland Branch placed special emphasis on IYC during its annual State-wide "Under Fives' Week", and held a 2-day Conference on "The Child at Risk", as part of the week's activities.

The South Australian Branch, in conjunction with the Institute on Developmental Disabilities, arranged a Seminar in August, on "Developmental Difficulties Identification and Intervention in Pre-School Years". Attendance had to be restricted, and over 200 registered. Papers presented by the principal speaker, Dr P. Silva, were made available after the Seminar to those requesting them.

The Tasmanian Branch, with a grant of \$300 from the Department of Social Welfare, arranged special outings and programs to provide experiences for children outside their normal environment. So children from isolated areas were brought to visit the city, children from inner city areas were taken on outings to a farm, those in industrial areas visited the Botanical Gardens, and so on. The Branch also raised funds to purchase outdoor equipment for a disadvantaged area.

The Victorian Branch accepted responsibility to undertake a national project to raise funds for "The Frances Derham Scholarship for the Arts in Early Childhood" to recognise the work of Mrs Frances Derham (author of the publication "Art for the Child Under Seven"). In excess of \$12,000 was collected, and applications for the Scholarship were being called as IYC came to a close.

The West Australian Branch, along with 15 other organisations, arranged a "Knee-High Exhibition" aimed especially at children, during the Royal Show in October.

The Lady Gowrie Child Centres also undertook special IYC projects. More details may also be found in the Annual Reports of each Centre.

The Adelaide Centre raised funds through contributions from early childhood centres throughout South Australia. It then arranged a competition, in association with the "Sunday Mail" for inventors of devices aimed at improving child safety. A prize of \$1,000 was offered, and won by a "Distracting Tap" invention, which is now to be manufactured by a commercial company.

The Centre also published a series of children's books to honour Kathleen Mellor, who was the original author of the books. They are now on sale at the Centre.

The Brisbane Centre produced a film called "A Secret Place" illustrating the natural playground of the Centre, and emphasizing how the outdoor environment can become a "second lassroom" where children can discover the natural world. The Centre raised funds to cover the cost of the film, and were also assisted by the Inge Rice Foundation. Copies of the film are now on sale at the Centre.

The Hobart Centre was unable to arrange a specific project because of a change in Directors mid-year, and a major renovation/rebuilding program in the Centre.

The Melbourne Centre, after identifying a need in the community for Health Education, particularly in regard to nutrition and dental hygiene, arranged a Family Breakfast at the Centre. Approximately 150 attended, and doctors, dietitians, dentists assisted with advice and resources. A second program involved parents and children in simple music and drama performances, followed by a special snack of nutritious party food.

The Perth Centre arranged an Exhibition of Equipment and Playthings, and a "Back to Gowrie" Day in its Victoria Park building, prior to moving to its new premises at Karawara.

The Sydney Centre undertook a Survey of the Needs of people caring for young children in three areas of NSW. The "Contact" Program resulted, and that project now works out of the Centre providing assistance to families which are isolated because of social, geographical or cultural circumstances.

LADY GOWRIE CHILD CENTRE PROGRAMS

FOCUS OF EACH CENTRE:

Adelaide

The Adelaide LGCC has divided its programs into 8 broad areas:

- 1 Parent Programs
- 2 Parent/Child Programs
- 3 Children's Programs
- 4 Special Needs Programs
- 5 Health and Nutrition Programs
- 6 Resource and Advisory Programs
- 7 Research and Evaluation Programs
- 8 Staff Development Programs

Over the past year, the Centre has maintained an "open door" policy in response to community need. The flexibility in programs is illustrated by the following examples:

- (a) A "pre-parenting" and "personal development" program is provided by the staff of the Centre for adolescents with below average academic abilities at the Thebarton High School. These adolescents often face regular failure in the regular school setting. The program, designed by the Centre, focuses on providing these people with opportunities to succeed when contributing in discussions and activities within the Centre.
- (b) A very effective parent cooperative has been established, where parents bring their children from birth-3 years of age and work with the Teacher in the Centre. A number of these children remain in the Centre for all day care as do several children from other groups within the Centre.
- (c) Children with behaviour and learning difficulties are often referred to the Centre by agencies and other pre-school/day care facilities throughout Adelaide. While many of these children attend the Centre, it has been found on occasion, that it is more appropriate for the child to remain in the original centre and for LGCC staff to provide support for that centre, e.g. 1 pre-school teacher from the LGCC would work in the day care or neighbourhood centre and assist at the Centre's request with programs generally and specifically related to the particular child.

The Centre is currently undertaking a study "Teacher, Parents and Children : Evaluation of the Parent/Teacher Cooperative".

Brisbane

Broad program areas are described as:

- (1) Sessional Pre-School (State Funded)
- (2) Under Threes
- (3) Family Day Care
- (4) Occasional Care
- (5) All-in-Together Parenting Program
- (6) Child Care In-Service
- (7) Demonstration and Interpretation
- (8) Health
- (9) Information Services

These programs contain resource, advisory, demonstration, research and evaluation components. Together, they maintain the focus of the Centre as a Community Resource Centre with an emphasis on the skills required for guidance of young children. During the past twelve months, the Centre has completed a pilot study - "An ecological study of the pro-social behaviour of two year olds in mixed-age and same-age groupings".

The report of that study is currently being compiled.

Hobart

- (1) Sessional Kindergarten (State Funded)
- (2) Special Intervention Kindergarten
- (3) Parent/Child Groups for Children under 3 Years of Age
- (4) Toy Library
- (5) Resource and Media Production and Dissemination
- (6) Parent Drop-in Room and General Parent Involvement Activities
- (7) Observation and Demonstration
- (8) Staff In-Service

During the past 12 months, the Centre has extended its work in the community, for example, at the request of Department of Social Welfare, the Centre established an orientation course for family day care prior to licensing. It also provided a half day activity program for children and parents in a Women's Shelter Half-Way House. This resulted in the Centre staff being asked to provide group discussions in the Child Care Annex of the Women's Shelter.

The Centre has also been involved in a research project conducted by the University of Tasmania concerned with "social cognition of children in multicare situations". As a result of suggestions from the Centre, Psychology students from the University of Tasmania are conducting a study to compare English language acquisition of migrant children who have had prior pre-school experiences with those who have not.

Melbourne

Major programs within the Centre are:

- (1) In-Service Training - Child Care Directors
 - Caregivers
 - Family Day Care Providers
 - Child Care Advisers
 - Personnel in Toddler Groups
 - Kindergarten Teachers
 - Parents of Children Under Three
- (2) Sessional Pre-School (State Funded)
- (3) Pre-Service Training (State Funded)

The Centre over the past twelve months has developed a comprehensive in-service course for personnel involved at all levels in child care services. As this Centre regularly publishes material related to early childhood, it has undertaken a survey of the literature specifically written for use in child care. The results of this survey are being used in developing future resource materials.

Perth

The broad program areas developed by the Perth Centre since its move into the new building at Karawara, are:

- (1) Full Day Care
- (2) Regular Part-Time Care
- (3) Informal Drop-In Centre
- (4) Occasional Care
- (5) Out of School Care
- (6) Holiday Care
- (7) Parent/Toddler Playgroup
- (8) Interpretation/Resource Program
- (9) Brownlie Towers Parent Support Program
- (10) Resource Library

The Centre maintains an enrolment policy giving priority to the residents of the Karawara Housing Estate. Initially, enrolments were low. However as the community has become more aware of the provisions in the Centre, enrolments have increased. Currently a senior Social Work Student is on placement at the Centre and the Child Health and Community Health Sisters regularly work from the Informal Drop-In (Neighbourhood) Section of the Centre.

Sydney

Programs operated by the Centre include:

- (1) Demonstration and Interpretation
- (2) Multicultural Resource Centre
- (3) Resource Advisory
- (4) Parenting including - Parent/Teacher Child Groups
Toy and Book Library
Health and Nutrition Scheme
Parent Interest Groups
Parent Involvement
- (5) Pre-School Services (State Funded)
- (6) Sessional Day Care - (i) Vertical Groups (mixed age groups)
(ii) Initial Entry Group
- (7) Occasional Care
- (8) Vacation Care
- (9) Emergency Care
- (10) Outreach

The Centre has developed a close relationship with the community. Parent participation is encouraged in aspects of program and management. The Centre's facilities have been made available to parents for various purposes, e.g. English language lessons provided by a language teacher from the Adult Migrant English Service. In June 1980, the Centre received a grant from the NSW Children's Services Fund for \$87,200. This grant will provide for staff, some equipment and running costs of a Multicultural Resource Centre (\$25,000) and a Mobile Resource Unit (\$62,000) that will service children of itinerant workers living in caravan parks in rural NSW.

The "contact" project funded by the Office of Child Care is based in the Sydney LGCC. The "Contact Research Report into the Needs of People Caring for Young Children in Three Areas in NSW" was published in January 1980 and is available from the Centre. This project also provides a regular and attractive newsletter for people in remote areas, with information on activities and topics related to young children.

The Centre has continued providing activities in a nearby park playground one afternoon per week for children in the community who are not attracted to Centre based care.

LADY GOWRIE CHILD CENTRES

Recommendations from Meeting of Directors and Representatives of Research and Evaluation Sub-Committees and APA (Melbourne 1-2 December 1979). As amended at Executive Meeting 31/3/80-2/4/80).

RECOMMENDATION 1

The Executive recognises the need for the provision of funds for up to two regular meetings per annum, each of a minimum of two days duration, to enable two meetings to occur, one between the Education Director and the Centre Directors and one meeting between the Education Director, the Centre Directors and one other representative from each Centre, one representative from the Research, Evaluation and Development Committee, so that programs, evaluation, research and development can be formulated and co-ordinated. The Executive recognises the importance of regular visits by the Education Director to each Centre. (Funding to be sought for 2 meetings each year, and 2 visits to Centres by Education Director.)

RECOMMENDATION 2

The APA Education Director be given the opportunity by the Office of Child Care to elaborate on and explain the details of the submissions from the Lady Gowrie Child Centres.

RECOMMENDATION 3

That the coordination of the national Lady Gowrie Program by the Education Director be further developed through the allocation of funds to employ additional research and secretarial staff and that provision be made to enable appropriate travel commitments to be met.

RECOMMENDATION 4

The Office of Child Care be asked to actively promote research into the education and care of children under four in Australia. The research would have components looking at:

- a. the interests, needs and characteristics of parents and children
- b. specific procedures and practices in care and education, and
- c. outcomes, for both parents and children in the short term and subsequently (at least until the child completes one year of schooling).

RECOMMENDATION 5

That all submissions to the Office of Child Care be acknowledged and advice be given of the outcomes as soon as possible.

RECOMMENDATION 6

That voluntary research consultants should be expected by APA and the LGCCs to act only in an advisory capacity. In each Centre, the responsibility for the design and implementation of research programs should be primarily that of a paid research officer in consultation with the Director, the Staff where appropriate, and relevant Committees.

RECOMMENDATION 7

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(Recommendation re changes to Terms of Reference approved 1977 - See Appendix J).

LADY GOWRIE CHILD CENTRES - TERMS OF REFERENCE

CURRENT:

- TR1 "To act as resource and advisory centres to agencies concerned with the provision and/or planning of education and welfare services for children in the 0-6 age range."
- TR2 "To carry out research into and evaluation of professional methodology in use in education and welfare services for children in the 0-6 age range, and to publish the results."
- TR3 "To demonstrate new and/or improved professional methodology to personnel involved in the provision of education and welfare services for children in the 0-6 age range."

PROPOSED: (forwarded to Senator Guilfoyle, Minister for Social Security, 9 June 1980)

- TR1 "To act as resource and advisory centres to persons and agencies concerned with the provision and/or planning of services for children in the 0-6 age range."
- TR2 "To carry out research into and evaluation of the methodology in services provided for, and issues related to children in the 0-6 age range and publish the results."
- TR3 "To demonstrate new and/or improved methodology to persons involved in facilitating the development of children in the 0-6 age range through the provision of services."

REPORT - NARRABUNDAH EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION CENTRE

Programs being offered for the children, families and community of Narrabundah are:

Sessional Pre-School

Offering five sessions weekly for 45 four to five year old children.

Extended Day

During second semester this program, one day weekly, is for children who were enrolled at the Primary School at the beginning of the following year and during first semester, for children enrolling on a monthly continuous basis. A very positive liaison program has operated between the Primary School and the Centre and throughout the year, children have been involved in a familiarisation program - opportunities to experience every aspect of the school day and to get to know the teachers.

Child/Parent/Teacher Groups

These programs continue to be in demand by families and referral agencies in Narrabundah. Since their introduction in 1977, many more parents are voluntarily seeking enrolment and are recognised for their supportive benefits to parents and children. Diverse cultural groups are now becoming involved.

Three Year Old Session

This program is primarily an extension of the Child/Parent/Teacher Groups. When children turn three years of age, enrolment in this session is offered. The parents become involved on a rota basis but are encouraged at all times to participate fully and as regularly as they wish. Many of the three year old children continue to attend the Child/Parent/Teacher Group with parent and younger siblings.

Parent-Get-Together

One afternoon weekly is allocated for parent involvement in activities planned to meet needs identified by them. Staff and parents together are presently discussing future programs for 1980. The aim is to encourage a wider participation level by parents and community.

Health Education

This is seen as an important factor in the Narrabundah Community so becomes an on-going and integral part of the Centre's programs. Areas for integration in all programs for children and parents are growth and development, nutrition, environmental safety and health care.

Multicultural Project

The Centre was successful in its application for funding through the ACT Schools Authority for a curriculum project. The program has commenced and is aimed at providing social, cultural and language experiences for all children and families involved in the Centre. Evaluation of the program is required by the Schools Authority and the completion date is July 1981. All staff will be involved in collection of data for this evaluation.

Staffing of the Centre

Recognition was given to the submission for the appointment of a full-time Co-ordinator at NECEC in March 1980 and an appointment made on 21 April 1980. This position will now allow for much wider scope in the Centre's operation, communication and contribution to the local and State scenes.

The Centre is currently staffed by two teachers, two pre-school assistants and a co-ordinator.

The Advisory Committee

This Committee has met regularly to discuss many issues relating to the operations of NECEC. The membership has been very supportive and active in its involvement.

Development has been achieved in:

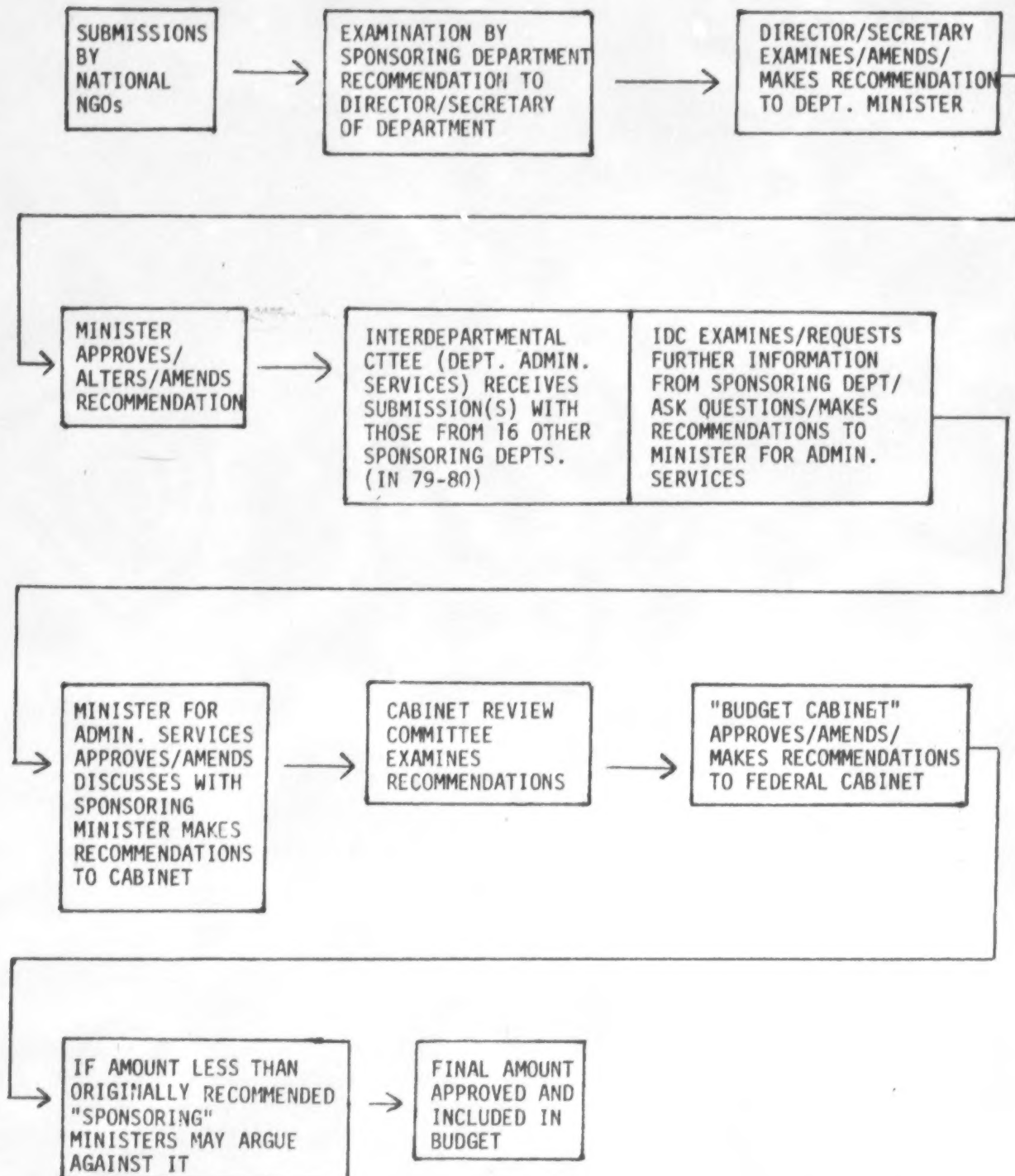
- Establishing a policy for parent participation
- Reviewing policy for inclusion of special children (1978)
- Setting out Terms of Reference for the Committee
- Establishing a research and evaluation advisory sub-committee

In May 1980 a Staff Conference was held on "Priorities for Research and Evaluation". The broad aim of this Conference was to determine whether the Centre is meeting the needs and expectations of the pupils, staff and community. The report at this stage is being considered by staff, parents and the Advisory Committee with a view to making a decision on priorities for research and evaluation.

Bernie Caldwell
Co-ordinator
NECEC

APPENDIX L

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT GRANT-IN-AID PROCESS (National Coordinating Bodies)



AUSTRALIAN PRE-SCHOOL ASSOCIATION INC.

RESOURCE INFORMATION SERVICE

Outline of proposed development of E.C. Data Base

